THE NUSTAR EXTRAGALACTIC SURVEY: A FIRST SENSITIVE LOOK AT THE HIGH-ENERGY COSMIC X-RAY BACKGROUND POPULATION


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ABSTRACT

We report on the first ten identifications of sources serendipitously detected by the Nuclear Spectroscopic Telescope Array (NuSTAR) to provide the first sensitive census of the cosmic X-ray background (CXB) source population at ≳ 10 keV. We find that these NuSTAR-detected sources are ≳ 100 times fainter than those previously detected at ≳ 10 keV and have a broad range in redshift and luminosity (z = 0.020–2.923 and L[40 keV] ≈ 4 × 10^39–5 × 10^45 erg s^-1); the median redshift and luminosity are z ≈ 0.7 and L[40 keV] ≈ 3 × 10^44 erg s^-1, respectively. We characterize these sources on the basis of broad-band ≳ 0.5–32 keV spectroscopy, optical spectroscopy, and broad-band ultraviolet-to-mid-infrared SED analyzes. We find that the dominant source population is quasars with L[40 keV] > 10^44 erg s^-1, of which ≳ 50% are obscured with N_H ≳ 10^22 cm^-2. However, none of the ten NuSTAR sources are Compton thick (N_H ≳ 10^24 cm^-2) and we place a 90% confidence upper limit on the fraction of Compton-thick quasars (L[40 keV] > 10^44 erg s^-1) selected at ≳ 10 keV of ≳ 33% over the redshift range z = 0.5–1.1. We jointly fitted the rest-frame ≳ 10–40 keV data for all of the non-beamed sources with L[40 keV] > 10^43 erg s^-1 to constrain the average strength of reflection; we find R < 1.4 for Γ = 1.8, broadly consistent with that found for local AGNs observed at ≳ 10 keV. We also constrain the host galaxy masses and find a median stellar mass of ≳ 10^11 M⊙, a factor ≳ 5 times higher than the median stellar mass of nearby high-energy selected AGNs, which may be at least partially driven by the order of magnitude higher X-ray luminosities of the NuSTAR sources. Within the low source-statistic limitations of our study, our results suggest that the overall properties of the NuSTAR sources are broadly similar to those of nearby high-energy selected AGNs but scaled up in luminosity and mass.

Subject headings: galaxies: active — galaxies: high-redshift — infrared: galaxies — X-rays

1. INTRODUCTION

The cosmic X-ray background (CXB) was first discovered in the early 1960’s (Giacconi et al. 1962), several years before the detection of the cosmic microwave background (CMB; Penzias & Wilson 1965). However, unlike the CMB, which is truly diffuse in origin, the CXB is dominated by the emission from high-energy distant point sources: Active Galactic Nuclei (AGNs), the sites of intense black-hole growth that reside at the centers of galaxies (see Brandt & Hasinger 2005; Brandt & Alexander 2010 for reviews). A key goal of high-energy astrophysics is to determine the detailed composition of the CXB in order to understand the evolution of AGNs.

Huge strides in revealing the composition of the CXB have been made over the past decade, with sensitive surveys undertaken by the Chandra and XMM-Newton observatories (e.g., Alexander et al. 2003a; Hasinger et al. 2007; Brunner et al. 2009). However, prior to the NuSTAR mission, the CXB at photon energies above ≳ 10 keV has only been sampled by instruments with extremely limited sensitivity and poorly characterized point-spread functions (PSFs); the only exceptions are the Chandra ARCHES survey at z ≳ 0.8 (Brandt & Hasinger 2005) and the 4-year Suzaku High-resolution Hard X-ray Survey (HIHXS; Nandra et al. 2010) at z ≲ 0.5. The NuSTAR mission, with its unprecedented sensitivity and nearly ideal PSF, will provide the first sensitive census of the CXB source population at z ≳ 0.1 to 10.

The NuSTAR mission (R. J. Xue et al., these proceedings) began early June 2012 and has now observed for a total of 200000 s over the entire sky. We report here on the first ten serendipitous source identifications. The scale of the NuSTAR mission is such that the CXB is not an entirely fair test of its sensitivity; the mission was designed primarily to study the broad-band spectra of high-z AGNs, quasi-stellar objects (QSOs), and supernova remnants. However, because of the weak flux and broad energy band of the CXB sources, NuSTAR will provide the first sensitive census of the CXB at ∼ 10 keV. We find that these NuSTAR-detected sources are ≳ 100 times fainter than those previously detected at ≳ 10 keV and have a broad range in redshift and luminosity (z = 0.020–2.923 and L[40 keV] ≈ 4 × 10^39–5 × 10^45 erg s^-1); the median redshift and luminosity are z ≈ 0.7 and L[40 keV] ≈ 3 × 10^44 erg s^-1, respectively. We characterize these sources on the basis of broad-band ≳ 0.5–32 keV spectroscopy, optical spectroscopy, and broad-band ultraviolet-to-mid-infrared SED analyzes. We find that the dominant source population is quasars with L[40 keV] > 10^44 erg s^-1, of which ≳ 50% are obscured with N_H ≳ 10^22 cm^-2. However, none of the ten NuSTAR sources are Compton thick (N_H ≳ 10^24 cm^-2) and we place a 90% confidence upper limit on the fraction of Compton-thick quasars (L[40 keV] > 10^44 erg s^-1) selected at ≳ 10 keV of ≳ 33% over the redshift range z = 0.5–1.1. We jointly fitted the rest-frame ≳ 10–40 keV data for all of the non-beamed sources with L[40 keV] > 10^43 erg s^-1 to constrain the average strength of reflection; we find R < 1.4 for Γ = 1.8, broadly consistent with that found for local AGNs observed at ≳ 10 keV. We also constrain the host galaxy masses and find a median stellar mass of ≳ 10^11 M⊙, a factor ≳ 5 times higher than the median stellar mass of nearby high-energy selected AGNs, which may be at least partially driven by the order of magnitude higher X-ray luminosities of the NuSTAR sources. Within the low source-statistic limitations of our study, our results suggest that the overall properties of the NuSTAR sources are broadly similar to those of nearby high-energy selected AGNs but scaled up in luminosity and mass.
2.1. The NuSTAR serendipitous survey

The NuSTAR serendipitous survey is the largest-area component of the NuSTAR extragalactic survey programme. The serendipitous survey is built up from NuSTAR-detected sources in the fields of NuSTAR targets, similar in principle to the serendipitous surveys undertaken in the fields of Chandra and XMM-Newton sources (e.g., Harrison et al. 2003; Kim et al. 2004; Watson et al. 2009). A major component of the NuSTAR serendipitous survey are ≈ 15–20 ks observations of ≈ 100 Swift-BAT identified AGNs, which provide both high-quality high-energy constraints of local AGNs and ≈ 2–3 deg$^2$ of areal coverage to search for serendipitous sources. However, the serendipitous survey is not restricted to these fields and the NuSTAR observations of targets not in the E-CDF-S, COSMOS, and Galactic-plane surveys are used to search for serendipitous NuSTAR sources; the exposures for these targets are also often substantially deeper than the NuSTAR observations of the Swift-BAT AGNs (up-to on-axis exposures of 177.1 ks in the current paper). The expected areal coverage of the NuSTAR serendipitous survey in the first two years is ≈ 3–4 deg$^2$.

Using the NuSTAR data processing and source detection approach outlined below, at the time of writing we have serendipitously detected ≈ 50 sources in the fields of ≈ 70 NuSTAR targets. Here we present the properties of the first ten spectroscopically identified sources; see Table 1. These ten sources were selected from NuSTAR observations taken up until January 31st 2013. The selection of these sources for spectroscopic follow-up observations was based on their visibility to ground-based telescopes and they should therefore be representative of the overall high-energy source population.

2.1.1. Data processing and source searching

The Level 1 data products were processed with the NuSTAR Data Analysis Software (NuSTARDAS) package (v. 0.9.0). Event files (level 2 data products) were produced, calibrated, and cleaned using standard filtering criteria with the nupipeline task and the latest calibration files available in the NuSTAR CALDB. The NuSTAR observations of the Geminga field were comprised of 15 separate exposures, which we combined using XIMAGE v4.5.1; the other NuSTAR observations reported here were individual exposures.

We produced 3–24 keV, 3–8 keV, and 8–24 keV images using DMCOPY from the Chandra Interactive Analysis Observations (CIAO) software (v4.4; Fruscione et al. 2006) for both NuSTAR FPMs. We also produced exposure maps in each energy band for both FPMs, which take account of the fall in the effective area of the mirrors with off-axis angle and are normalised to the effective exposure of a source located at the aim point.

We searched for serendipitous sources in all of the six images (i.e., the three energy bands for each FPM) using WAVDETECT (Freeman et al. 2002) with an initial false-positive probability threshold of $10^{-6}$ and wavelet scales of 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 31, and 16 pixels. To be considered a reliable NuSTAR source we require a detection to satisfy at least one of two criteria: (1) to be detected in at least one of the three images for both FPM1 and FPM2 or (2) to be detected in at least one of the three images in a single FPM but to have a lower-energy X-ray counterpart (e.g., detected by Chandra, Swift-1...
XRT, or \textit{XMM-Newton}). Following §3.4.1 of Alexander et al. (2003a), we also ran WAVDETECT at a false-positive probability threshold of 10^{-4} to search the six images (i.e., the three energy bands for each FPM) for lower significance counterparts of sources already detected at a false-positive probability threshold of 10^{-6} in any of the three energy bands.

See Tables 1–2 for the details of the X-ray data for the first 10 spectroscopically identified serendipitous \textit{NuSTAR} sources. All of the \textit{NuSTAR} sources are detected at > 8 keV in at least one FPM.

2.1.2. Source photometry

We measured the number of counts for each source at 3–24, 3–8, and 8–24 keV using either a 30\arcsec, 45\arcsec, or 60\arcsec radius circular aperture centered on the 3–24 keV WAVDETECT position for each FPM; the encircled energy fractions of these apertures are \approx 0.50, \approx 0.66, and \approx 0.77 of the full PSF, respectively, for a source at the aim point. The choice of aperture is dictated by the brightness of the source and how close it lies to another source; see Table 2 for the adopted aperture of each source. These measurements provide the gross source counts, which we correct for background counts to provide the net source counts. To obtain a good sampling of the background counts while minimising the contribution to the background from the source counts, we measured the background in source-free regions using at least four circular apertures of 45\arcsec or 60\arcsec radius at least 90\arcsec from the source. The gross source counts are corrected for the background counts to give the net source counts, rescaling for the different sizes of the source and background regions. Errors on the net source counts are determined as the square root of the gross source counts. Upper limits are calculated when a source is not detected in one of the six images or if the net counts are less than the 1 \sigma uncertainty; 3 \sigma upper limits are calculated as 3 times the square root of the gross source counts. See Table 2 for the source photometry.

2.1.3. Source fluxes

The source fluxes are calculated using the net count rates (i.e., the net counts divided by the source exposure time) and the measured X-ray spectral slope, following a procedure analogous to that used in the Chandra deep field surveys (e.g., Brandt et al. 2001; Alexander et al. 2003a). The X-ray spectral slope is determined from the band ratio, which we define here as the 8–24 keV/3–8 keV count-rate ratio. To convert the band ratio into an X-ray spectral slope we used XSPEC v12.7.1d (Arnaud 1996) and the Response Matrix File (RMF) and Ancillary Response File (ARF) of the detected \textit{NuSTAR} sources; we produced the RMF and ARF following §2.1.5. We also used XSPEC and the RMF and ARF to determine the relationship between count rate, X-ray spectral slope, and source flux in each of the three energy bands: 3–24 keV, 3–8 keV, and 8–24 keV. We calculated the source fluxes in the three energy bands using the observed count rate and the derived X-ray spectral slope; for the faint \textit{NuSTAR} sources with < 100 net counts summed over the two FPMs, we set the X-ray spectral slope to \Gamma = 1.8, consistent with the average X-ray spectral slope of the overall sample (see §4.3). The source fluxes in each band were then corrected to the 100% encircled-energy fraction of the PSF and averaged over the two FPMs.

2.1.4. Source positions

To provide the most accurate \textit{NuSTAR} source positions and assist in source matching, we calculated a counts-weighted source position. This is determined from the 3–24 keV net counts and the 3–24 keV source position in each FPM. If a source is only detected in one FPM at 3–24 keV then the position of the source in that FPM is used.\footnote{We derive the \textit{NuSTAR} source name from the counts-weighted \textit{NuSTAR} source position, adjusted to an appropriate level of precision (based on the \textit{NuSTAR} positional accuracy), using the International Astronomical Union (IAU) approved naming convention for \textit{NuSTAR} sources: \textit{NuSTAR JHHMMSS±DDMM.m}, where m is the truncated fraction of an arcmin in declination for the arcseconds component.}

2.1.5. Extraction of the X-ray spectral products

We extracted the \textit{NuSTAR} data to be used in the X-ray spectral fitting analyzes. The \textit{NuSTAR} data were extracted using the \textit{NuSTAR}-developed software nuproducts. nuproducts extracts source and background spectra and produces the RMF and ARF required to fit the X-ray data; the source and background spectra were extracted from each FPM using the same-sized apertures and regions as those adopted for the source photometry.

For the serendipitous source in the Geminga field (\textit{NuSTAR} J063358+1742.4) we combined the source and background spectrum from each of the 15 observations (see §2.1.1) to produce a total source and background spectrum. We also produced an average ARF file for \textit{NuSTAR} J063358+1742.4 by combining the individual ARF files, weighted by the exposure time for each ARF, and we used the RMF produced from the first observation when fitting the X-ray data.

2.2. Lower-energy X-ray data

To extend the X-ray spectral fitting constraints and assist in the identification of optical counterparts, we searched for < 10 keV counterparts for each \textit{NuSTAR}-detected source using \textit{Chandra}, Swift-XRT, and \textit{XMM-Newton} observations. Since the \textit{NuSTAR} serendipitous programme targets fields containing well-known Galactic and extragalactic targets, they all have lower-energy X-ray coverage. However, the only lower-energy X-ray data available in the IC 751 field is a short (∼ 2.3 ks) \textit{Swift}-XRT observation in which the serendipitous \textit{NuSTAR} source is detected with only 10 counts by XRT, which is insufficient to provide useful < 10 keV constraints. For all of the other \textit{NuSTAR} sources there are good-quality < 10 keV data and, in some cases, there was more than one observation available. When selecting suitable lower-energy data we preferentially chose contemporaneous observations (i.e., observations taken within \approx 1 week of the \textit{NuSTAR} observations), which was the case for three sources in our sample (\textit{NuSTAR} J032459-0256.1; NuSTAR J121027+3929.1; \textit{NuSTAR} J183443+3237.8). In the absence of contemporaneous observations we used existing lower-energy data where 10 keV constraints. For all of the other \textit{NuSTAR} sources there are good-quality < 10 keV data and, in some cases, there was more than one observation available. When selecting suitable lower-energy data we preferentially chose contemporaneous observations (i.e., observations taken within \approx 1 week of the \textit{NuSTAR} observations), which was the case for three sources in our sample (\textit{NuSTAR} J032459-0256.1; \textit{NuSTAR} J121027+3929.1; \textit{NuSTAR} J183443+3237.8). In the absence of contemporaneous observations we used existing lower-energy data where
regions of ≈ 40'' radius, selected at different positions around the source to account for local background variations.

The Swift-XRT data are reduced using the HEASoft (v.6.12) pipeline xrtpipeline, which cleans the event files using appropriate calibration files and extracts the spectra and ancillary files for a given source position; the source extraction regions had radii of ≈ 20''. Since the background in the Swift-XRT observations is very low, no background spectra were extracted.

For the XMM-Newton EPIC data we used the Pipeline Processing System (PPS) products, which are a collection of standard processed high-quality products generated by the Survey Science Center (SSC). For our analysis we used the Science Analysis Software (SAS v.12.0.1), released in June 2012. After filtering the event files for high background intervals, we extracted the source spectra from a circular region with a radius of ≈ 20''. The corresponding background spectra have been extracted using circular source-free regions in the vicinity of the corresponding source (≈ 30''–60'' radius regions). Using the SAS tasks rmfgenc and arfgenc we also produced the response matrices for each source in each of the three EPIC cameras separately (pn, MOS1, and MOS2).

2.3. Counterpart matching

To provide reliable source identification we matched the NuSTAR sources to the < 10 keV and multi-wavelength data; see §2.2, §2.4, and Table 3 for the description of the data. We searched for multi-wavelength counterparts within 10'' of the NuSTAR source positions using on-line source catalogs and multi-wavelength images; the latter approach is required for faint counterparts or for recent data not yet reported in on-line source catalogs. The 10'' search radius is motivated by the absolute astrometric accuracy of NuSTAR (± 5'', 90% confidence, for bright X-ray sources; Harrison et al. 2013) and the low count rates for the majority of our sources.

A lower-energy X-ray counterpart is found within 10'' for each of the NuSTAR sources; see Table 2. To provide further confidence that the X-ray source is the correct lower-energy counterpart to the NuSTAR source, we compared the 3–8 keV fluxes of the lower-energy source and the NuSTAR source. We selected and extracted the lower-energy X-ray data following §2.2 and we calculated the 3–8 keV fluxes using a power-law model in XSPEC (the model component is POW in XSPEC); see Table 1 for details of the low-energy X-ray data selected for each source. The average source flux was calculated for the XMM-Newton data when multiple detectors were used (i.e., PN, MOS 1 and MOS 2). In Fig. 1 we compare the 3–8 keV fluxes from the lower-energy X-ray data to the 3–8 keV flux from the NuSTAR data. In all cases the fluxes agree within a factor of two, demonstrating that we have selected the correct lower-energy X-ray counterpart.

An optical counterpart is also found within 10'' of each NuSTAR source; see Table 3. Given the larger intrinsic uncertainty in the NuSTAR source position when compared to the lower-energy X-ray source position, we also measured the distance between the lower-energy X-ray source position and the optical position. An optical counterpart is found within 3'' (and the majority lie within 1'') of the lower-energy X-ray source position for all of the sources. See Fig. 2 for example multi-wavelength cut-out images of NuSTAR J183443+3237.8 in the 3C 382 field.

2.4. Ultraviolet–radio data

To further characterize the properties of the NuSTAR sources we used ultraviolet (UV) to mid-infrared (MIR) data. Table 3 presents the broad-band UV–MIR photometric properties of the NuSTAR sources, primarily obtained from existing, publicly available all-sky or large-area surveys, including the Galaxy Evolution Explorer (GALEX; Martin et al. 2005), the Digitised Sky Survey (DSS; Minkowski & Abell 1963; Hambly et al. 2001), the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS; York et al. 2000), the Two-Micron All-Sky Survey (2MASS; Skrutskie et al. 2006), and the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE; Wright et al. 2010). The source photometry is provided in its native format for all of the sources. The DSS data, provided for sources outside of the SDSS, were obtained from the SuperCOSMOS scans of the photographic Schmidt plates (Hambly et al. 2001). As recommended by the SuperCOSMOS Sky Survey, all photometric uncertainties are set to 0.30 mag for those measurements. Where publicly available, we also provide Spitzer photometry from the Infrared Array Camera (IRAC; Fazio et al. 2004), obtained from the post-basic calibrated data (PBBD) products. To avoid the effects of source confusion, photometry was measured in 2.4'' radius apertures on the 0.6'' per pixel re-sampled PBBD mosaics, and then corrected to total flux density using aperture corrections from the IRAC Instrument Handbook (v.2.0.2). Several sources were observed during the post-cryogenic Warm Spitzer phase, and thus only the two shorter wavelength band-passes from Spitzer-IRAC are available.

4 See http://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/software/heasoft/ for details of HEASoft.
5 See http://xmm.esa.int/sas/ for details of the SAS software.
In several cases we used photometry from different sources, which we list below. For NuSTAR J063358+1742.4 we report a $J$-band non-detection, which is measured from 1.56 ks of dithered observations obtained with the Florida Infrared Imaging Multi-object Spectrograph (FLAMINGOS) on the Kitt Peak 2.1 m telescope. The data were obtained on UT 2012 October 17 in photometric but 1′6 seeing conditions, and the 3σ upper limit was calculated in a 2″ radius aperture; see Table 3 for more details. For NuSTAR J145856-3135.5 we report the $R$-band magnitude from Caccianiga et al. (2008). For NuSTAR J181428+3410.8 the optical photometry comes from imaging reported in Eisenhardt et al. (2012), calibrated to the SDSS. The $WISE$ $12\mu m$ photometry for NuSTAR J181428+3410.8 was measured directly from the images as this source does not appear in the $WISE$ All-Sky Catalog; we do not provide the shorter wavelength $WISE$ photometry for this source as it is superceded by Warm Spitzer observations. For NuSTAR J183443+3237.8 we obtained $B, R,$ and $I$ band observations using the Palomar 60-inch telescope (P60) on UT 2013 March 04 in ≈ 2″ seeing; the exposure time was 300 s in each band, repeated three times with a 60″ dither. NuSTAR J183443+3237.8 was well detected in all three bands and the reported photometry in Table 3 was measured in 4″ diameter apertures, which has been corrected for PSF losses.

We also searched for radio counterparts in the NVSS and FIRST VLA surveys (Becker et al. 1995; Condon et al. 1998), using a search radius of 30″ and 15″, respectively. NuSTAR J121027+3929.1 was detected in both surveys and has a flux of $f_{1.4GHz} = 18.7 \pm 0.7$ mJy (in the NVSS survey), which corresponds to a rest-frame luminosity density of $L_{1.4GHz} = 2.2 \times 10^{24}$ W Hz$^{-1}$ (calculated following Equation 2 of Alexander et al. 2003b and assuming a radio spectral slope of $\alpha = 0.8$). With the exception of NuSTAR J011042-4604.2, all of the other sources had at least NVSS coverage but none were detected. The rest-frame luminosity density upper limits ranged from $L_{1.4GHz} < 1.8 \times 10^{20}$ W Hz$^{-1}$ (for NuSTAR J032459-0256.1) to $L_{1.4GHz} < 4.3 \times 10^{24}$ W Hz$^{-1}$ (for NuSTAR J115746+6004.9), with the majority of the sources having upper limits of $L_{1.4GHz} < 10^{23} - 10^{24}$ W Hz$^{-1}$.

### 2.5. Optical spectroscopy

Two of the ten serendipitous sources have existing optical spectroscopy: NuSTAR J121027+3929.1 has been previously identified as a BL Lac at $z = 0.615$ (MS 1207.9+3945; e.g., Stocke et al. 1985; Gioia et al. 1990; Morris et al. 1991) while NuSTAR J145856-3135.5 has been previously identified as a broad-line AGN (BLAGN) at $z = 1.045$ (2XMM J145857.0-313536; Caccianiga et al. 2008). For the other eight serendipitous NuSTAR sources we obtained optical spectroscopy at the Palomar, Keck, and Gemini-South telescopes. Table 3 presents basic information about the observations, including the instrument and UT date of the observations and in the Appendix we provide specific details for each observation. We processed all of the optical spectroscopic data using standard techniques, and flux calibrated the spectra using standard stars observed on the same nights.

The optical spectra for the eight newly identified NuSTAR sources are shown in Fig. 3. Clear multiple broad and/or narrow emission lines are detected in six sources, showing that the redshift identifications are reliable. However, the optical counterparts for NuSTAR J115746+6004.9 and NuSTAR J063358+1742.4 are comparatively faint and the optical spectra are therefore of lower quality when compared to the optical spectra of the other serendipitous sources. NuSTAR J115746+6004.9 has narrow, spatially extended Ly $\alpha$.
FIG. 3.—Optical spectra for the eight newly identified serendipitous NuSTAR sources; the optical spectra of the other two sources (NuSTAR J121027+3929.1 and NuSTAR J145856-3135.5) have been previously presented in Morris et al. (1991) and Caccianiga et al. (2008). The prominent emission and absorption lines are indicated; see §2.5.
emission as well as somewhat broadened C III] emission indicating \( z = 2.923 \); spatially extended Ly \( \alpha \) emission is often found to be associated with powerful AGNs (e.g., Reuland et al. 2003; Geach et al. 2009; Yang et al. 2009). The redshift of NuSTAR J063358+1742.4 is less certain due to the identification of a single narrow emission line, which is more likely to be \([\text{O}III]\) at \( z = 0.891 \) than Ly \( \alpha \) due to the rising optical continuum and lack of a strong Ly \( \alpha \) forest decrement (as would be expected had the source been at \( z \approx 4.8 \)); the identification of two absorption features at the wavelengths expected for Ca H+K provide additional confidence for \( z = 0.891 \). We consider all of the redshifts to be reliable.

The two NuSTAR sources with existing optical spectroscopy (NuSTAR J121027+3929.1; NuSTAR J145856-3135.5) have optical magnitudes consistent with the eight newly identified NuSTAR sources and meet our basic requirement for inclusion in this paper (i.e., sources identified in NuSTAR observations taken up until January 31st 2013); we note that several of the other \( \approx 40 \) serendipitously detected NuSTAR sources also have existing optical spectroscopy but have been identified in more recent NuSTAR observations and are not included in this paper. We therefore believe that the inclusion of these two NuSTAR sources does not bias our overall NuSTAR sample.

3. DATA ANALYSIS

3.1. X-ray spectral fitting

To interpret the X-ray data and provide insight into the intrinsic AGN properties of the serendipitous NuSTAR sources (e.g., \( \Gamma \) and \( N_H \)) we fitted the X-ray data using physically motivated AGN models. We extracted the NuSTAR data following §2.1.5 and the lower-energy X-ray data following §2.2.1.

For the three sources with > 200 counts in each NuSTAR FPM at 3–24 keV (NuSTAR J011042-4604.2, NuSTAR J115519-4232.6, and NuSTAR J121027+3929.1; see Table 2), we grouped the NuSTAR data into bins of at least 40 counts per bin and used \( \chi^2 \) statistics to find the best-fitting model parameter solutions. However, the NuSTAR photon statistics were too poor to allow for \( \chi^2 \) statistics for the other seven sources, and for the X-ray spectral analyzes of these sources we fitted the unbinned X-ray data using the \( C \)-statistic (Cash 1979). The \( C \)-statistic is calculated on unbinned data and is therefore ideally suited to low-count sources (e.g., Nousek & Shue 1989). However, since the data need to be fitted without the background subtracted, it is essential to accurately characterize the background and use that as a fixed model component in the X-ray spectral fitting of the source spectrum. We characterized the background by fitting the background regions using a double power-law model (the model components are \texttt{POW}+\texttt{POW} in XSPEC). The photon statistics were also often poor for the lower-energy X-ray data (< 200 counts) and we therefore typically fitted the unbinned < 10 keV data using the \( C \)-statistic with the measured background as a fixed component. In Fig. 4 we show example NuSTAR spectra for two of the brightest NuSTAR sources: NuSTAR J115519-4232.6 and NuSTAR J121027+3929.1; for NuSTAR J121027+3929.1 we also show the Swift-XRT data. All fit parameter uncertainties are quoted at the 90% confidence level (Avni 1976).

We initially fitted only the NuSTAR data using a simple power-law model (the \texttt{POW} model in XSPEC) to provide constraints on the overall X-ray spectral slope \( (\Gamma) \) over 4–32 keV. We also restricted the NuSTAR data to cover the rest-frame 10–40 keV energy range for each source and fitted a power-law model to measure both the rest-frame 10–40 keV spectral slope (\( \Gamma_{10-40} \)) and luminosity (\( L_{10-40} \)). Given the redshift of NuSTAR J115746+6004.9 (\( z = 2.923 \)) we fitted to the rest-frame 15–60 keV data. See Table 4.

To provide direct measurements on the presence of absorption we jointly fitted an absorbed power-law model (the model components are \texttt{ZWABS}+\texttt{POW} in XSPEC) to both the NuSTAR and lower-energy X-ray data for each source. For five of the sources we fitted the 0.5–32 keV data (for NuSTAR J1121027+3929.1 we fitted the 0.5–50 keV data, given the good photon statistics of this source), jointly fitting the X-ray spectral slope and absorbing column density for both of the NuSTAR FPMs and the lower-energy X-ray data. However, for NuSTAR J115912+4232.6 no good-quality low-energy X-ray data exist and we therefore only fitted the NuSTAR data, while for the remaining three sources (NuSTAR J115746+6004.9, NuSTAR J145856-3135.5, and NuSTAR J181428+3410.8) the photon statistics of the NuSTAR data were too poor to provide reliable constraints on both \( \Gamma \) and \( N_H \), and we therefore fitted the absorbed power-law model to just the lower-energy X-ray data. The best-fitting model parameters are given in Table 4.

3.2. Ultraviolet–mid-infrared spectral energy distribution fitting

To constrain the relative contributions from AGN activity and the host galaxy to the UV–MIR data we fitted the broadband UV–MIR spectral energy distributions (SEDs) using the 0.03–30 \( \mu \)m empirical low-resolution templates for AGN and galaxies of Assef et al. (2010). Each SED is modelled as the best-fit non-negative combination of three galaxy templates and an AGN template. The reddening of the AGN template, parameterized by \( E(B-V) \), is a free parameter in the fit. The errors on the parameters were calculated using a Monte-Carlo method, where the photometry is resampled 1000 times according to the photometric uncertainties and the SED fits and parameters are re-calculated; the errors refer to the standard deviation for all of the realizations. Since the templates have been empirically defined using AGNs with similar X-ray luminosities and redshifts at the NuSTAR sources, we do not expect there to be significant systematic uncertainties in the best-fitting model solutions; the efficacy of the SED-fitting approach will be further explored in S. M. Chung et al. (in prep.). We refer the reader to Assef et al. (2008, 2010, 2013) for further details.

In Fig. 5 we present the UV–MIR SEDs and best-fitting solutions and in Table 3 we provide the following best-fitting parameters: \( \hat{a} \) (the fractional contribution to the overall emission from the AGN component over 0.1–30 \( \mu \)m; Assef et al. 2013), \( E(B-V) \) (the dust reddening of the AGN component), \( L_{6\mu m} \) (the luminosity of the AGN component at rest-frame 6 \( \mu \)m), and \( M_* \) (the stellar mass of the host galaxy). The stellar mass is calculated from the absolute magnitude of the stellar component using the color-magnitude calibration of Bell et al. (2003). Three of the NuSTAR sources have photometric measurements in \(< 5 \) bands (NuSTAR J110422+4604.2; NuSTAR J063358+1742.4; NuSTAR J145856-3135.5) and the derived properties for these sources are therefore poorly constrained.

\footnote{We note that AGNs often require more complex models to characterize their X-ray emission than that of a simple absorbed power law (e.g., Winter et al. 2009; Vasudevan et al. 2013). However, the data quality of our sources is not sufficient to reliably constrain such models on a source by source basis (see §4.3 for more detailed average constraints).}
4. RESULTS

In analyzing the NuSTAR sources we predominantly focus on characterizing their X-ray and UV–MIR properties and comparing these properties to those of sources detected in previous-generation $\lesssim 10$ keV surveys (e.g., Swift-BAT; Tueller et al. 2008, 2010; Baumgartner et al. 2012).

4.1. Basic source properties

The 8–24 keV fluxes of the NuSTAR sources are up to $\approx 10$ keV ($f_{8-24keV} \approx (0.6-5.9) \times 10^{-13}$ erg s$^{-1}$ cm$^{-2}$, as compared to $f_{8-20keV} \gtrsim 0.4 \times 10^{-11}$ erg s$^{-1}$ cm$^{-2}$; e.g., see Table 2 and the RXTE data in Revnivtsev et al. 2004). The NuSTAR sources also have fainter optical counterparts and lie at higher redshifts than sources previously detected at $\gtrsim 10$ keV ($R \approx 16–22$ mags and a median redshift of $z \approx 0.7$, as compared to $V \approx 10–16$ mags and a median redshift of $z \approx 0.03$; see Beckmann et al. 2009 and Table 3).

In Fig. 6 we plot the rest-frame 10–40 keV luminosity versus redshift of the NuSTAR sources and compare them to AGNs detected in the Swift-BAT survey (e.g., Burlon et al. 2011). With a median luminosity of $L_{10-40keV} \approx 3 \times 10^{44}$ erg s$^{-1}$, the NuSTAR sources are more luminous than the vast majority of the Swift-BAT AGNs, where $\approx 80\%$ have $L_{10-40keV} < 10^{44}$ erg s$^{-1}$; the median luminosity of the Swift-BAT AGNs is $L_{10-40keV} \approx 3 \times 10^{43}$ erg s$^{-1}$. The larger fraction of luminous AGNs detected by NuSTAR, in comparison to Swift-BAT, is a consequence of the higher sensitivity of NuSTAR and two additional factors (1) the strong redshift-dependent evolution of luminous AGNs (e.g., Ueda et al. 2003; Barger et al. 2005; Hasinger et al. 2005; Aird et al. 2010), and (2) the comparatively small cosmological volume in which NuSTAR is sensitive to AGNs with $L_{10-40keV} < 10^{44}$ erg s$^{-1}$ ($z \approx 0.2$).

The range of redshifts for the NuSTAR sources is large ($z = 0.020–2.923$). At $z = 2.923$, NuSTAR J115746+6004.9 is the highest-redshift AGN detected to date at $\gtrsim 10$ keV that does not appear to be strongly beamed (e.g., Beckmann et al. 2009; Burlon et al. 2011; Malizia et al. 2012). By comparison, NuSTAR J032459-0256.1 has a redshift typical of those of the Swift-BAT AGNs ($z = 0.020$) but, with $L_{10-40keV} \approx 5 \times 10^{41}$ erg s$^{-1}$, it is $\approx 30$ times less luminous than the faintest Swift-BAT AGNs; in §4.4 we show that this source is also unusual since it is hosted in a low-mass dwarf galaxy. The high X-ray luminosities for the majority of the NuSTAR sources indicate that they are AGNs. However, the origin of the modest X-ray luminosity of NuSTAR J032459-0256.1 is less clear and it is possible that the X-ray emission is produced by a hyper-luminous X-ray source (HLX; e.g., Farrell et al. 2009; Swartz et al. 2011) as opposed to a low-luminosity AGN; high-spatial resolution observations with Chandra would be able to distinguish between an off-nuclear HLX and an AGN or nuclear HLX. The median and range in X-ray luminosity and redshift of the NuSTAR sources are consistent with expectations (Ballantyne et al. 2011). However, we note that both the redshift and X-ray luminosity of NuSTAR J032459-0256.1 are below the range typically explored in the models.

The optical spectral properties of the NuSTAR sources are relatively diverse; see Fig. 3 and Table 3. Five of the ten ($\approx 50\%$) serendipitous sources have broad emission lines and are classified as broad-line AGNs (BLAGNs), four ($\approx 40\%$) have narrow emission lines and we classify as narrow-line AGNs (NLAGNs), and one is a BL Lac, with strong power-law optical continuum emission and weak emission lines. The BL Lac (NuSTAR J121027+3929.1) is a relatively well studied high-frequency peaked BL Lac (HBL; Padovani & Giommi 1995), originally identified at X-ray energies by Einstein (MS 1207.9+3945; e.g., Gioia et al. 1990; Morris et al. 1991; Urry et al. 2000; Maselli et al. 2008). Two of the NLAGNs have $L_{10-40keV} > 10^{44}$ erg s$^{-1}$ and are therefore type 2 quasars, representing $\approx 20\%$ of the NuSTAR sample; by comparison six type 2 quasars are identified in the 199 Swift-BAT sample of Burlon et al. (2011), just $\approx 3\%$ of the entire sample. However, the difference in the fraction

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of type 2 quasars between NuSTAR and Swift-BAT is at least partly related to the increased fraction of luminous AGNs in the NuSTAR serendipitous sample; we note that, since we lack coverage of the Hα emission line for the type 2 quasars, we cannot rule out the presence of broad Hα in some of the NuSTAR type 2 quasars. The overall fraction of BLAGNs and NLAGNs in the Swift-BAT AGN sample is consistent with that found for the NuSTAR serendipitous sample: ≈ 50\% of the Swift-BAT sources are BLAGNs (including all Seyfert 1s and Seyfert 1.2s) and ≈ 50\% are NLAGNs (including all Seyfert 1.5s, Seyfert 1.8s, Seyfert 1.9s, and Seyfert 2s). Therefore, within the limitations of our small sample, the biggest differences between the basic properties of the NuSTAR sources and the Swift-BAT AGNs appear to be luminosity and redshift.

4.2. X-ray spectral properties: the presence of absorption

The ≳ 10 keV sensitivity of NuSTAR allows for the selection of AGNs almost irrespective of the presence of absorption, up-to high absorbing column densities of $N_H \approx (1–3) \times 10^{24}$ cm$^{-2}$. However, particularly when using lower-energy X-ray data, we can measure the absorbing column den-
X-ray spectra over a broad energy range.

In Fig. 7 we show the X-ray band ratio versus redshift for the NuSTAR sources and compare them with those expected for absorbed power-law emission from an AGN. As can be seen, given the high X-ray energies probed by NuSTAR, the evidence for absorption can only be clearly identified on the basis of the X-ray band ratio for the most heavily obscured AGNs ($N_H \gtrsim 5 \times 10^{23} \text{ cm}^{-2}$) at $z \lesssim 0.5$. The X-ray band ratios for all of the NuSTAR sources are consistent with $N_H \lesssim 5 \times 10^{23} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. However, more detailed constraints on the X-ray spectral properties and the presence of absorption can be placed by directly fitting the X-ray spectra of the NuSTAR sources, particularly when including lower-energy data ($\lesssim 3$ keV), which is more sensitive to column densities of $N_H \lesssim 10^{23} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. We extracted the X-ray spectral products and fitted the X-ray data of the NuSTAR sources with an absorbed power-law model (ZWABS*POW in XSPEC), following §3.1; see Footnote 7 for caveats on the application of an absorbed power-law model to characterize AGNs. In Fig. 8 we plot the best-fitting X-ray spectral slope ($\Gamma$) and absorbing column density ($N_H$) for the NuSTAR sources (see Table 4 for the best-fitting parameters) and compare them to the X-ray spectral properties of the Swift-BAT-detected AGNs in Burlon et al. (2011). The best-fitting X-ray spectral slopes of the NuSTAR sources are broadly consistent with those found for well-studied nearby AGNs ($\Gamma \approx 1.3$–$2.3$; e.g., Nandra & Pounds 1994; Reeves & Turner 2000; Deluit & Courvoisier 2003; Piconecelli et al. 2005; Burlon et al. 2011). The source with the steepest X-ray spectral slope ($\Gamma = 2.41^{+0.15}_{-0.14}$) is NuSTAR J121027+3929.1, the HBL previously identified at $<10$ keV (e.g., Gioia et al. 1990; Morris et al. 1991). Indeed, steep X-ray spectral slopes are typical of HBLs (e.g., Sambruna et al. 1996; Fossati et al. 1997).

Four of the ten sources ($\approx 40^{+32}_{-19}$%) require the presence of absorption, with $N_H \gtrsim 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$, and the other six sources have absorbing column density upper limits. The fraction of X-ray absorbed AGNs with $N_H > 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ in the Swift-BAT sample of Burlon et al. (2011) is $\approx 53^{+14}_{-4}$%, indicating no significant difference in the fraction of absorbed AGNs between the NuSTAR sources and the Swift-BAT AGNs. Eight of the NuSTAR sources are quasars with $L_{10-40\text{keV}} > 10^{44} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$, and four ($\approx 50^{-40}_{-20}$%) of the quasars are absorbed with $N_H \gtrsim 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$; see Fig. 9. The fraction of obscured quasars is in broad agreement with that found at $\gtrsim 10$ keV in the local Universe and from Chandra and XMM-Newton surveys at higher redshift (e.g., Ueda et al. 2003; La Franca et al. 2003; Akylas et al. 2006; Hasinger 2003; Burlon et al. 2011; Malizia et al. 2012); however, better source statistics are required to provide sufficient constraints to distinguish between different X-ray background synthesis models (Gilli et al. 2007). Two of the X-ray absorbed quasars are BLAGNs and two are NLAGNs and we discuss the origin of the obscuration towards these sources in §4.4.

None of the NuSTAR sources appear to be absorbed by Compton-thick material ($N_H \gtrsim 10^{24} \text{ cm}^{-2}$), despite the near obscuration-independent AGN selection over the NuSTAR energy range. However, the absorbing column densities of Compton-thick AGNs are so high that even the $>10$ keV emission can be significantly absorbed (e.g., AGNs with $N_H \gtrsim 5 \times 10^{24} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ can be suppressed by an order of magnitude; see Fig. 11 of Burlon et al. 2011). Therefore, Compton-thick AGNs can be comparatively rare even in high-energy
10 Less direct approaches are often required to identify Compton-thick AGNs with $N_H \lesssim 3 \times 10^{24} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ (e.g., optical–mid-infrared spectroscopy, photometry, and SED fitting; Risaliti et al. 1999; Alexander et al. 2008; Treister et al. 2009; Goulding et al. 2011; Del Moro et al. 2013; Luo et al. 2013).

11 Assuming that the intrinsic distribution of absorbing column densities over $N_H = 10^{22} - 10^{24} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ is flat (e.g., Risaliti et al. 1999) and that $> 10$ keV surveys are only sensitive to the identification of AGNs with $N_H \lesssim 3 \times 10^{24} \text{ cm}^{-2}$, the intrinsic fraction of Compton-thick AGNs would be $\approx 20–40\%$.

4.3. X-ray spectral properties: the presence of reflection

A unique aspect of the NuSTAR data is the insight that it places on the $> 10$ keV emission from distant AGNs and the presence of spectral complexity beyond that of simple power-law emission (e.g., a reflection component), particularly at $z \approx 1$ where the rest-frame energy coverage of Chandra and XMM-Newton is comparatively modest. By focusing on $> 10$ keV emission, the effect of absorption on the observed emission will be negligible (at least up to $N_H \approx 5 \times 10^{23} \text{ cm}^{-2}$) and the presence of reflection can be revealed by the flattening of the intrinsic power-law component.

To investigate the $> 10$ keV emission in our sources we fitted the rest-frame 10–40 keV emission using a simple power-law model (the POW model in XSPEC), following $\S 3.1$; see Table 4. The spectral constraints for individual sources are poor and range from $\Gamma_{10–40\text{keV}} \approx 0.4–2.4$, with large uncertainties; the mean X-ray spectral slope is $\Gamma_{10–40\text{keV}} \approx 1.9$. However, we can place accurate average spectral constraints by jointly fitting the data. When jointly fitting the data we fitted the rest-frame 10–40 keV data of the NuSTAR sources with a power-law model, jointly fitting the power-law component but leaving the normalization for each source to vary independently. In this analysis we excluded NuSTAR J121027+3929.1, the HBL, and NuSTAR J032459-0256.1, the low-luminosity system, since we wanted to focus on luminous non-beamed AGNs. The best-fitting X-ray spectral slope from the joint spectral fitting is $\Gamma_{10–40\text{keV}} = 1.88^{+0.26}_{-0.25}$ in good agreement with the intrinsic X-ray spectral slope found for nearby AGNs studied at $> 10$ keV (e.g., Deluit & Courvoisier 2003; Dadina 2008; Molina et al. 2009; Burlon et al. 2011); see Table 5. To first order, the comparatively steep average rest-frame 10–40 keV spectral slope suggests that there is not a significant reflection component in these sources, on average, which would manifest itself as a relatively flat X-ray spectral slope at $> 10$ keV (e.g., Nandra & Pounds 1994).

We can more directly constrain the average strength of the reflection component by jointly fitting the rest-frame 10–40 keV data using the PEXRAV model in XSPEC (Magdziarz & Zdziarski 1995). Fixing the X-ray spectral slope to $\Gamma = 1.8$ and adopting the default parameters for PEXRAV we constrain the average strength of the reflection for the eight NuSTAR sources to be $R < 1.4$. Conversely, if we fix $R = 1$, the typical value found for nearby AGNs selected at $> 10$ keV (e.g., Deluit & Courvoisier 2003; Dadina 2008; Beckmann et al. 2009; Molina et al. 2009), we constrain the intrinsic X-ray spectral slope to be $\Gamma = 2.08^{+0.25}_{-0.25}$, also consistent with that of nearby AGNs; see Table 5. To first order, our results therefore suggest that the strength of reflection in distant luminous AGNs is consistent to that found for local AGNs. However, better source statistics are required to more accurately constrain the strength of a reflection component in distant AGNs and to search for changes in the reflection component within sub populations (e.g., dividing the samples in terms of luminosity and absorbing column density).

4.4. Ultraviolet–mid-infrared source properties

The PEXRAV model calculates the expected X-ray continuum spectrum due to the reflection by power-law emission by neutral material.
The UV–MIR data of the NuSTAR sources can provide insight into the emission from the AGN and host galaxy and the presence of dust reddening. Below we first explore the MIR colors of the NuSTAR sources and we then analyze their UV–MIR SEDs.

### 4.4.1. Infrared color analysis

Various works over the past decade have shown that MIR colors provide a powerful method to robustly select luminous AGNs in a manner that is relatively unbiased by obscuration (e.g., Stern et al. 2005, 2012; Assef et al. 2010, 2013; Donley et al. 2007, 2012). As such, MIR selection has some similarity to hard X-ray selection, and MIR and hard X-ray source selection are potentially the two most promising avenues for uncovering the full census of AGN in universe. Each wavelength has various strengths and weaknesses. In particular, various works have shown that MIR selection preferentially identifies the most luminous AGN with quasar-level luminosities (e.g., Donley et al. 2007, Eckart et al. 2010), while X-ray selection efficiently identifies moderate–high luminosity AGNs (e.g., Barger et al. 2003; Szokoly et al. 2004; Xue et al. 2011). On the other hand, MIR surveys have now mapped the entire celestial sphere, identifying millions of robust AGN candidates. In contrast, NuSTAR is unlikely to map more than $\approx 10–20$ deg$^2$ over its entire mission lifetime. In order to explore this MIR–X-ray complementarity in the new regime offered by NuSTAR, we therefore briefly discuss the MIR colors of the ten serendipitous NuSTAR sources.

Only one of the ten NuSTAR sources (NuSTAR J063358+1742.4) has four-band Spitzer-IRAC detections, a requirement for the Spitzer MIR AGN selection criteria; NuSTAR J063358+1742.4 is fainter than the WISE flux limits but has IRAC colors that place it within the IRAC AGN wedge of Stern et al. (2005). Of the other nine NuSTAR sources, eight have at least two-band detections by WISE. Stern et al. (2012) and Assef et al. (2013) have recently developed WISE AGN selection criteria, effectively extending the Spitzer selection criteria across the full sky (see also Mateos et al. 2012; Wu et al. 2012). Five of the eight NuSTAR sources have WISE colors indicative of an AGN according to those criteria. The outliers include the two sources with the weakest AGN component (i.e., lowest $\dot{a}$ values; see §3.2), NuSTAR J011042-4604.2 and NuSTAR J032459-0256.1. These are the only sources with $\dot{a} < 0.5$, confirming that MIR selection misses sources where the AGN is not bolometrically dominant.

The final outlier is the HBL NuSTAR J121027+3929.1, a BL Lac-type blazar. Massaro et al. (2011) have recently published a series of papers discussing the WISE colors of blazars. While Flat-Spectrum Radio Quasars (FSRQ) type blazars have colors typical of other AGN populations (e.g., Yan et al. 2013), BL Lac-type blazars have unique colors. However, as NuSTAR J121027+3929.1 is only detected in the two shorter wavelength bandpasses of WISE, it is not possible to compare this source to the color criteria developed by Massaro et al. (2011) and Yan et al. (2013); note also the caveat empor in Footnote 3 of Stern & Assef (2013).

### 4.4.2. Spectral energy distribution analysis

To quantify the UV–MIR emission of the NuSTAR sources we fitted the broad-band SEDs following §3.2; see Fig. 5 and Table 3. A significant AGN component ($\dot{a} > 0.4$) is required to explain the UV–MIR emission for all of the sources except for the low-luminosity system NuSTAR J032459-0256.1. The rest-frame 6 $\mu$m luminosities of the NuSTAR sources ($\nu L_{\nu} \approx (0.9–30) \times 10^{44}$ erg s$^{-1}$, with the exception of NuSTAR J032459-0256.1, which has $\nu L_{\nu,6} \approx 4 \times 10^{46}$ erg s$^{-1}$) are in general agreement with that expected for the MIR–X-ray (i.e., 6 $\mu$m–2–10 keV) luminosity relationship found for AGNs (e.g., Lutz et al. 2004; Fiore et al. 2009); we assumed $\Gamma = 1.8$ to convert between rest-frame 2–10 keV and rest-frame 10–40 keV. However, we note that the HBL NuSTAR J121027+3929.1 and the highest-redshift source NuSTAR J115746+6004.9 are both X-ray bright compared to the strength of the AGN at 6 $\mu$m, suggesting that the X-ray emission from these sources is probably beamed (as would be, at least, expected for an HBL).

In some cases the presence of dust reddening in the best-fitting SED solutions means that the observed contribution of the AGN at UV–optical wavelengths is negligible. However, we highlight here that, although the strength of the AGN continuum at UV–optical wavelengths plotted in Fig. 5 is inconsistent with the optical spectroscopy in some cases (e.g., NuSTAR J011042-4604.2 and NuSTAR J181428+3410.8), they are broadly consistent when the range in dust reddening from the best-fitting solution is taken into account; see Table 3. As expected on the basis of the simplest unified AGN model (e.g., Antonucci 1993), the optical emission is heavily extinguished in the NLAGNs ($E(B–V) \approx 3–6$ mags, which corresponds to $A_V \approx 9–18$ mags for $R_V = 3.1$; e.g., Savage & Mathis 1979), with the exception of the low-luminosity system NuSTAR J032459-0256.1. There is evidence of dust-reddening for two of the BLAGNs (NuSTAR J181428+3410.8 has $E(B–V) \approx 2$ mags and NuSTAR J183443+3237.8 has $E(B–V) \approx 0.6$ mags) and, as we discuss in the Appendix, the reddening towards NuSTAR J183443+3237.8 appears to be variable. None of the other BLAGNs show evidence for significant obscuration at optical wavelengths, as expected for the simplest version of

![Graph](image-url)
The range of stellar masses is large, from $0.7 \times 3.3 \times 10^{11} M_\odot$, and the median stellar mass is $\approx 10^{11} M_\odot$. Many of the NuSTAR sources are BLAGNs and we caution that reliable stellar-mass constraints are challenging for these systems due to the contribution of the AGN to the rest-frame optical–near-IR emission (see §3.2 and Fig. 5 for the SED-fitting constraints). However, reassuringly, the median stellar mass of the NLAGNs, where accurate stellar-mass constraints are less challenging, is consistent with that of the BLAGNs when the two extreme sources are removed ($\approx 10^{11} M_\odot$).

The range and median stellar mass of the NuSTAR sources are similar to those of comparably distant AGNs detected at $< 10$ keV in Chandra and XMM-Newton surveys (e.g., Babić et al. 2007; Alonso-Herrero et al. 2008; Bundy et al. 2008; Xue et al. 2010; Lusso et al. 2011). However, by comparison, the median stellar mass of the NuSTAR sources is $\approx 5$ times higher than for $z < 0.05$ AGNs detected at $> 10$ keV by Swift-BAT ($\approx 2 \times 10^{10} M_\odot$; Koss et al. 2011). To first order this suggests that there has been significant evolution in the characteristic mass of high-energy emitting AGNs over the redshift range $z \approx 0–1$. However, the NuSTAR sources are more luminous than the Swift-BAT AGNs and that could bias the results towards more massive systems. For example, for a constant average Eddington ratio, the order of magnitude higher median X-ray luminosity of the NuSTAR sources over the Swift-BAT AGNs (see §4.1) would lead to an order of magnitude higher black hole mass and thereby a larger stellar mass, assuming no evolution in the black-hole–spheroid mass relationship (e.g., Magorrian et al. 1998; Marconi & Hunt 2003; Gültekin et al. 2009). Indeed, Koss et al. (2011) show a weak trend between mean stellar mass and X-ray luminosity for the Swift-BAT AGNs. Therefore, while our results indicate that the most luminous high-energy emitting AGNs at $z \gtrsim 0.1$ are hosted by more massive galaxies than high-energy emitting AGNs at $z < 0.05$, a systematic analysis of both local and distant AGNs taking account of potential X-ray luminosity biases, is required to derive more accurate constraints.

5. CONCLUSIONS

We have reported on the first ten identifications of NuSTAR sources serendipitously detected in the extragalactic survey programme. These NuSTAR sources are $\approx 100$ times fainter than AGNs previously detected at $> 10$ keV and have a broad range in redshift and luminosity ($z = 0.020–2.923$ and $L_{40–400 keV} \approx 4 \times 10^{41}–5 \times 10^{45}$ erg s$^{-1}$); the median redshift and luminosity are $z \approx 0.7$ and $L_{40–400 keV} \approx 3 \times 10^{44}$ erg s$^{-1}$, respectively. On the basis of broad-band $\approx 0.5–32$ keV spectroscopy, optical spectroscopy, and broad-band UV–MIR SED analyses we find the following results:

- five ($\approx 50^{+32}_{-23}\%$) of the ten NuSTAR sources are classified as broad-line AGNs (BLAGNs), four ($\approx 40^{+32}_{-15}\%$) are classified as narrow-line AGNs (NLAGNs), and one is a BL Lac. The BLAGN:NLAGN ratio is consistent with that found for $\approx 10$ keV selected AGNs in the local Universe. See §4.1.
- from fitting the broad-band X-ray spectra we find that the dominant source population are quasars with
$L_{10-40keV} > 10^{44}$ erg s$^{-1}$, of which ≈ 50% are obscured with $N_H \gtrsim 10^{22}$ cm$^{-2}$. However, none of the seven quasars over the redshift range $z = 0.5$–1.1 are Compton thick and we place a 90% confidence upper limit of $\lesssim 33\%$ on the Compton-thick quasar fraction. See §4.2.

• from jointly fitting the rest-frame $\approx 10$–40 keV data for all of the non-beamed sources with $L_{10-40keV} > 10^{43}$ erg s$^{-1}$ we constrain the high-energy X-ray spectral slope and the average strength of a reflection component. We find $R < 1.4$ for $\Gamma = 1.8$ and $\Gamma = 2.08^{+0.25}_{-0.24}$ and $R = 1.0$, consistent with that found for local AGNs selected at $> 10$ keV. See §4.3.

• from fitting the UV–MIR SEDs we constrain the stellar masses of the host galaxies, finding a median stellar mass of $\approx 10^{11} M_\odot$. The host galaxies of NuSTAR sources are $\approx 5$ times more massive on average than Swift–BAT-detected local AGNs at $> 10$ keV. At least part of this implied evolution in the characteristic mass of high-energy emitting AGNs is likely to be due to X-ray luminosity biases. See §4.4.

NuSTAR is providing unique insight into the high-energy properties of AGNs, achieving a factor $\approx 100$ times improvement in sensitivity over previous observatories at $\gtrsim 10$ keV. In the current study we do not find significant differences in the fraction of absorbed AGNs between the NuSTAR sources and nearby high-energy emitting AGNs, despite the NuSTAR sources being $\approx 10$ times more luminous (and $\approx 5$ times more massive), on average. These results therefore suggest that the central engine of distant high-energy emitting AGNs is similar to that of nearby AGNs. However, the current study is limited in source statistics and provides a first look at the high-energy properties of distant AGNs. With the $\approx 20$–40 times improvement in sample size afforded by the full NuSTAR extragalactic survey (completed in the first 2 years of NuSTAR observations) we will be able to make more detailed comparisons and accurately measure the high-energy properties of distant AGNs and constrain their evolution with redshift.

We acknowledge financial support from the Leverhulme Trust (DMA; JRM), the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC; DMA; ADM; GBL), the SAO grant GO2-13164X (MA), NASA Postdoctoral Program at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (RJA), NSF award AST 1008067 (DRB), Center of Excellence in Astrophysics and Associated Technologies (FPB 06/2007; FEB; ET), the Anillo project ACT1101 (FEB; ET), FONDECYT Regular 1101024 (FEB), Caltech NuSTAR subcontract 44A-1092750 (WNB; BL), NASA ADP grant NNX10AC99G (WNB; BL), ASI/INAF GO2-13164X, and FONDECYT-Chile under grant FONDECYT regular grant 1120061 (ET). We thank the referee for a constructive and positive report. We also thank Michael Koss for the discussion of Swift–BAT results, and Mark Brodwin, Daniel Gettings, John Gizis, Richard Walters, Jingwen Wu, and Dominika Wylezalek for supporting the ground-based follow-up observations. This work was supported under NASA Contract No. NNG08FD60C, and made use of data from the NuSTAR mission, a project led by the California Institute of Technology, managed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. We thank the NuSTAR Operations, Software and Calibration teams for support with the execution and analysis of these observations. This research has made use of the NuSTAR Data Analysis Software (NuSTARDAS) jointly developed by the ASI Science Data Center (ASDC, Italy) and the California Institute of Technology (USA).

REFERENCES

Ballantyne, D. R., Draper, A. R., Madsen, K. K., Rigby, J. R., Treister, E.
Eckart, M. E., McGreer, I. D., Stern, D., Harrison, F. A., & Helfand, D. J.
Fabbiano, G., et al. 2003, SPIE, 4841, 1657
### Table 1. X-ray Observations Used in the Paper

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target Field</th>
<th>HLX 1</th>
<th>NGC 1320</th>
<th>Geminga</th>
<th>SDSS J1157+6003</th>
<th>IC 751</th>
<th>NGC 4151</th>
<th>Cen X-4</th>
<th>WISE J1814+3412</th>
<th>3C 382</th>
<th>AE Aqr</th>
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<td>21.3 ks</td>
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**Note.** — a the nominal on-axis exposure time (for *NuSTAR* the exposure is from FPMA), corrected for background flaring and bad events; b the range of observation numbers that have been combined to produce the final image (only the 15 observations ending in even numbers are used).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target Field / Source Name</th>
<th>HLX 1</th>
<th>NGC 1320</th>
<th>Geminga</th>
<th>SDSS J1157+6003</th>
<th>IC 751</th>
<th>NGC 4151</th>
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<th>WISE J1814+3412</th>
<th>3C 382</th>
<th>AE Aqr</th>
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<td>3–24 keV (A)</td>
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<td>129 ± 17</td>
<td>102 ± 24</td>
<td>(31 ± 12)</td>
<td>213 ± 20</td>
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<td>3–8 keV (A)</td>
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<td>90 ± 13</td>
<td>51 ± 16</td>
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<td>132 ± 14</td>
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<td>&lt; 19</td>
<td>(20 ± 8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8–24 keV (A)</td>
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<td>82 ± 14</td>
<td>145 ± 20</td>
<td>&lt; 36</td>
<td>(16 ± 9)</td>
<td>(24 ± 8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3–24 keV (B)</td>
<td>265 ± 37</td>
<td>97 ± 14</td>
<td>(87 ± 31)</td>
<td>35 ± 12</td>
<td>262 ± 24</td>
<td>655 ± 33</td>
<td>28 ± 19</td>
<td>23 ± 12</td>
<td>52 ± 11</td>
<td>107 ± 24</td>
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<tr>
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<td>59 ± 22</td>
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<td>156 ± 17</td>
<td>494 ± 27</td>
<td>&lt; 25</td>
<td>(14 ± 8)</td>
<td>30 ± 8</td>
<td>77 ± 18</td>
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<td>8–24 keV (B)</td>
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<td>&lt; 37</td>
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<td>60</td>
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<td>45</td>
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<td>0.4</td>
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**Note:** — ‡ source name (NuSTAR J), based on the counts-weighted NuSTAR source position following the IAU source-name convention (see Footnote 3); ‡ counts-weighted NuSTAR source position measured in the 3–24 keV energy band (see §2.1.4); ‡ effective exposure at the source position in FPMA and FPMB in units of ks. The effective exposure is measured from the exposure maps (see §2.1.1); ‡ net counts, 1σ uncertainties, and 3σ upper limits measured at the counts-weighted NuSTAR source position in the 3–24 keV, 3–8 keV, and 8–24 keV bands for FPMA and FPMB (see §2.1.2). The values in parentheses indicate a lower significance counterpart (see §2.1.1); ‡ radius (in arcseconds) of the circular aperture used to measure the source photometry (see §2.1.2); ‡ aperture-corrected flux in the 3–24 keV, 3–8 keV, and 8–24 keV energy bands in units of 10−13 erg s−1 cm−2; ‡ positional offset (in arcseconds) between the counts-weighted NuSTAR source position and the closest source detected in the lower-energy X-ray data (i.e., Chandra, Swift-XRT, XMM-Newton). See Table 1; ‡ low-count source and Γ = 1.8 is used to convert the NuSTAR count rates into fluxes; ‡ flux at 3–8 keV measured from the lower-energy X-ray data (either Chandra, Swift-XRT, or XMM-Newton; see Table 1) in units of 10−13 erg s−1 cm−2 (see §2.2).
<table>
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<th>Target Field Source Name</th>
<th>RA (J2000)</th>
<th>DEC (J2000)</th>
<th>Optical offset</th>
<th>FUV</th>
<th>NUV</th>
<th>I′</th>
<th>Spitzer (3.6 µm)</th>
<th>Spitzer (4.5 µm)</th>
<th>Spitzer (5.8 µm)</th>
<th>Spitzer (8.0 µm)</th>
<th>Redshift</th>
<th>Telescope</th>
<th>Camera</th>
<th>UT Date</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Table 3. Ultraviolet to mid-infrared source properties**

**Notes.** — a source name (NuSTAR J); see Table 2; b counterpart source position; c positional offset (in arcseconds) between the counts-weighted NuSTAR position and the counterpart source position (the value in parentheses gives the positional offset between the lower-energy X-ray source and the counterpart source position); d source photometry given in its native format (e.g., AB mag for GALEX, AB sin mag for SDSS, aby for Spitzer, and Vega mag for all others unless otherwise noted); optical photometry with double-dagger symbol (†) indicates when the given measurements are not from the SDSS; the photometry for these sources is obtained from the DSS, via SuperCOSMOS unless otherwise noted in the text (see §2.4). For the Geminga serendipitous source, we obtained J-band imaging from the KPNO 2.1-m telescope (see §2.4); e optical spectroscopic redshift, as described in §2.5, except for NuSTAR J1121027+3929.1 and NuSTAR J145856-3135.5, which are taken from Morris et al. (1991) and Caccianiga et al. (2008), respectively; f observational details of the optical spectroscopy and the optical spectroscopic classification, as given in §2.5, 4.1, and the Appendix (see Morris et al. 1991 and Caccianiga et al. 2008 for details of NuSTAR J1121027+3929.1 and NuSTAR J145856-3135.5); g best-fitting parameters and 1σ uncertainties from the UV-MIR emission; h the fractional contribution to the UV-MIR emission from the AGN component, E(B – V) is the dust reddening (units of mags), L_{6} is the infrared luminosity of the AGN at rest-frame 6 µm (V_L) in units of 10^{44} erg s^{-1}; and M_{*} is the stellar mass (units of 10^{9} M_{⊙}).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target Field Source Name</th>
<th>HLX 1</th>
<th>NGC 1320</th>
<th>Geminga</th>
<th>SDSS J1157+6003</th>
<th>IC 751</th>
<th>NGC 4151</th>
<th>Cen X4</th>
<th>WISE J1814+3412</th>
<th>3C 382</th>
<th>AE Aqr</th>
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</thead>
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<td>NuSTAR</td>
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<tr>
<td>(\Gamma)(^d)</td>
<td>1.9(^+0.4)(^{-0.3})</td>
<td>2.2(^+0.5)(^{-0.4})</td>
<td>1.6(^{+0.6}_{-0.5})</td>
<td>2.2(^{-0.7}_{+0.3})</td>
<td>1.9(^{+0.3}_{-0.1})</td>
<td>2.4(^{+0.2}_{-0.1})</td>
<td>0.5(^{±1.2})</td>
<td>1.9(^{+0.7}_{-0.3})</td>
<td>1.5(^{+0.7}_{-0.5})</td>
<td>1.6(^{+0.5}_{-0.3})</td>
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<tr>
<td>(L_{10–40\text{keV}})(^e)</td>
<td>1.9(^+0.5)(^{-0.5})</td>
<td>1.2(^{+1.0}_{-1.2})</td>
<td>2.0(^{+0.6}_{-0.7})</td>
<td>1.9(^{+0.8}_{-0.9})</td>
<td>1.8(^{+1.3}_{-0.9})</td>
<td>2.4(^{+0.3}_{-0.3})</td>
<td>0.4(^{+1.4}_{-0.5})</td>
<td>0.4(^{+1.4}_{-0.5})</td>
<td>1.7(^{+1.1}_{-0.9})</td>
<td>2.3(^{+1.0}_{-0.8})</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Data fitted              | NuSTAR | NuSTAR | +Swift-XRT | NuSTAR | +Swift-XRT | Chandra | NuSTAR | +Swift-XRT | XMM-Newton | XMM-Newton |
| Energy range\(^c\)       | 0.5–32 | 0.5–32  | 0.5–32    | 0.5–32 | 0.5–32     | 0.5–32  | 0.5–32  | 0.5–32     | 0.5–32     | 0.5–32    |
| \(\Gamma\)\(^f\)        | 2.0\(^+0.3\)\(^{-0.3}\) | 2.0\(^{+1.0}_{-0.3}\) | 1.6\(^{+0.5}_{-0.7}\) | 1.9\(^{+0.8}_{-0.9}\) | 2.2\(^{+1.2}_{-0.6}\) | 2.4\(^{+0.2}_{-0.3}\) | 1.9\(^{+0.3}_{-0.4}\) | 1.9\(^{+0.5}_{-0.4}\) | 1.4\(^{+0.5}_{-0.5}\) | 1.8\(^{+0.5}_{-0.5}\) |
| \(N_H\)\(^g\)           | 1.4\(^+1.4\)\(^{-1.1}\) | \(<0.2\)    | \(<0.2\)  | \(<11.9\)     | \(<65.4\) | \(<0.6\)  | \(<0.9\) | \(<0.9\)     | \(<1.5\)    | \(<10.2\)  |

\(^{a}\) source name (NuSTAR 1); \(^{b}\) origin of the X-ray data used in the spectral fitting; \(^{c}\) observed-frame energy range (in keV) over which the X-ray data is fitted; \(^{d}\) best-fitting spectral slope (\(\Gamma\)) and uncertainty (90\% confidence) over the full spectral range for a power-law model; \(^{e}\) best-fitting spectral slope (\(\Gamma\)), uncertainty (90\% confidence), and luminosity (units of 10\(^{44}\) erg s\(^{-1}\)) from fitting the rest-frame 10–40 keV data with a power-law model (see §3.1 for more details); \(^{f}\) best-fitting spectral slope (\(\Gamma\)), absorbing column density, uncertainty (90\% confidence), and upper limits (\(N_H\); units of 10\(^{22}\) cm\(^{-2}\); see §3.1 for more details).
Table 5. Joint-fitting Model Parameters

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<th>Model</th>
<th>Sources</th>
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<th>$R^d$</th>
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</thead>
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<td>$1.88^{+0.26}_{-0.25}$</td>
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<td>$2.08^{+0.25}_{-0.24}$</td>
<td>1.0$^e$</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note. — $^a$ XSPEC model used in the joint-fitting process; $^b$ number of sources used in the joint-fitting process – the low-luminosity system NuSTAR J032459-0256.1 and the HBL NuSTAR J121027+3929.1 were not included in the joint-fitting process; $^c$ best-fitting spectral slope over the rest-frame 10–40 keV range; $^d$ best-fitting reflection parameter ($R$; see Footnote 13 for a description) over the rest-frame 10–40 keV range; $^e$ parameter fixed at given value.
Here we provide the details of the new optical spectroscopy obtained for eight of the serendipitous NuSTAR sources, present the optical spectroscopy for an additional Chandra-detected source in the Geminga field, and discuss the interesting properties of NuSTAR J183443+3237.8.

A.1 DETAILS OF THE NEW OPTICAL SPECTROSCOPIC OBSERVATIONS

On UT 2012 October 10 we used the Double Spectrograph (DBSP) on the Palomar 200 inch telescope to observe NuSTAR J183443+3237.8 in the 3C382 field. We integrated for 300 s split across two equal exposures in moderate, but non-photometric conditions. The observations used the 2′′ wide longslit, the 6800 Å dichroic, the 600/4000 blue grating (e.g., 600 ℓ mm⁻¹, blazed at 4000 Å), and the 316/7500 red grating.

On UT 2012 November 9 we used the Low Resolution Imaging Spectrometer (LRIS; Oke et al. 1995) at the Cassegrain focus of the Keck I telescope to observe NuSTAR J032459-0256.1 and NuSTAR J181428+3410.8 in the NGC 1320 and W1814+3412 fields, respectively. We observed the sources for 200 s and 300 s, respectively, in moderate, but non-photometric conditions. The observations used the 1′′ wide longslit, the 5600 Å dichroic, the 400/3400 blue grism, and the 400/8500 red grating.

On UT 2012 November 20 we again used DBSP at Palomar. Conditions were photometric and we used the same instrument configuration as employed for NuSTAR J183443+3237.8 in October. We observed NuSTAR J115746+6004.9 and NuSTAR J115912+4232.6 in the SDSS 1157+6003 and IC 751 fields for 1800 s split into two and three dithered exposures, respectively.

On UT 2012 December 12 we used the Gemini Multi-Object Spectrograph-South (GMOS-S; Hook et al. 2004) at the Gemini-South 8 m telescope to observe NuSTAR J011042-4604.2 in the HLX 1 field. We observed the source for 1200 s, split into two exposures dithered by 50 Å in central wavelength to fill in the chip gap in the focal plane. We used the 1′′ wide longslit and 600/4610 grating.

On UT 2013 January 10 we used LRIS at the Keck I telescope to observe NuSTAR J063358+1742.4 in the Geminga field. We observed the source for 1200 s, split into two exposures, using the 1′′ wide longslit, the 600/4000 blue grism, the 400/8500 red grating, and the 5600 Å dichroic. The position angle of the longslit was set in order to get a second Chandra source in the field where there is weak evidence for NuSTAR emission. The optical spectrum of this second Geminga serendipitous source at α J2000 = 06h33m49.22s, δ J2000 = +17deg41min55.7s (CXO J063349.2+174155) and the UV–MIR SED and the best-fitting solution (following §3.2) are shown in Fig. A1. The optical spectrum reveals an AGN at z = 1.109 with somewhat broadened Mg II emission, weak [O II] emission, and a strong 4000 Å break with well-detected Ca H+K absorption lines. The best-fitting SED solution suggests that the AGN dominates the UV–MIR emission. However, since the SED is only comprised of the WISE data, the overall SED is comparatively poorly constrained: the best-fitting parameters are δ = 0.93 ± 0.03, E(B − V) = 0.24 ± 0.39, L₆μm = (5.34 ± 0.55) × 10⁴⁴ erg s⁻¹, and M* = (9.3 ± 3.2) × 10¹⁰ M☉. There is weak evidence for emission from this source in the NuSTAR images. However, this source was not formally detected using the source detection procedure described in §2.1 and...
we therefore do not discuss this source further in this paper. We instead provide this information for future researchers of X-ray sources in the Geminga field.

Fig. A2.— UV–MIR SED and best-fitting solutions for NuSTAR J183443+3237.8 using (left) our recent (UT 2013 March 04) observations and (right) from the DSS. The data are fitted with the Assef et al. (2010) AGN (magenta dashed curve) and galaxy (elliptical; red dotted curve; irregular; cyan dash-dotted curve) templates; the best-fitting solution is plotted as a black solid curve. The source redshift, best-fitting dust-reddening solution ($E(B-V)$) and uncertainties are shown.

A.2 NOTES ON NUSTAR J183443+32378

NuSTAR J183443+3237.8 is a BL AGN that appears to be unabsorbed in the X-ray band ($N_H < 1.5 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$; see Table 4). We obtained $B$, $R$, and $I$ band observations of this field on UT 2013 March 04 using P60; see §2.4. The optical emission of NuSTAR J183443+3237.8 has faded since the original DSS observations. To explore the origin of this fading we fitted the UV–MIR SED of NuSTAR J183443+3237.8 following §3.2, using both our new data and the older DSS data; see Fig. A2. On the basis of the original DSS observations the best-fitting SED solution indicates $E(B-V) = 0.00 \pm 0.01$. However, by the comparison, the best-fitting SED solution using the new UV–optical data indicates $E(B-V) = 0.59 \pm 0.46$, consistent with $A_V \approx 1.9$ mags for $R_V = 3.1$ (e.g., Savage & Mathis 1979). Assuming the relationship between dust reddening and X-ray absorption found in the Galaxy (e.g., Güver & Özel 2009), the X-ray absorbing column density for $A_V \approx 1.9$ mags is $N_H \approx 5 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$, a factor $\approx 3$ below the upper limit placed on $N_H$ from the X-ray spectral fitting; see Table 4.