

Characterising X-Ray Variability in Blazars

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Summary

Historically blazar research has tended to concentrate on individual 'outbursts'. In many respects this approach has been successful, particularly when considering the relationship between the emission at different wavebands, and the likely emission mechanisms. But does this approach properly address the underlying reason behind the variability? In all other accreting systems, eg X-ray binary sources or non-blazar active galaxies such as Seyfert galaxies, it is now reasonably well established that the X-ray variability is the result of a red-noise process. In those cases it is likely that the variability arises in the accretion disc, eg as accretion rate fluctuations. These variations propagate inwards and eventually modulate the X-ray emission region. Could something similar be happening in blazars? In this talk I consider the possibilities.

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