Non-thermal radiation from disk-cloud interactions in Active Galactic Nuclei

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Motivation

Does the **dynamics of the broad-line region** imprint **non-thermal features** in the **spectra** of active galactic nuclei?

Non-thermal model

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Astronomy Astrophysics

Radiation from the impact of broad-line region clouds onto AGN accretion disks

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Broad-line region model

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The Picture of BLR in 2.5D FRADO: Dynamics and Geometry

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Nonthermal Emission from Fall-back Clouds in the Broadline Region of Active Galactic Nuclei

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Anabella Araudo^{1,5,6} (D), and Vladimír Karas⁶ (D)

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Broad-line region



Müller, PhD Thesis, 2020

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- Region close to the central black hole (< 1 pc)
- Keplerian orbits with velocities
 10³ 10⁴ km s⁻¹
- Typical cloud radius ~ 1 AU
 - Total number of clouds ~ 10⁸ or more
- The clouds reprocess the disk emission and emi photons with ~ 10 eV

Non-thermal model

But.

- Clouds are moving with supersonic velocities and co-existing with the accretion disk
- The collisions produce shock waves (Müller & Romero, A&A, 2020)



- Diffusive shock acceleration in strong, adiabatic, and super-Alfvénic shocks as observed in supernova remnants (Krymskii 1977; Bell 1978; Blandford & Ostriker 1978)
- Significant non-thermal radiation can be produced in the X-ray and gamma-ray bands, assuming spherical broad-line region and clouds homogeneously distributed. Gamma-ray spectrum of NGC 1068 can be modeled (Müller & Romero, A&A, 2020)

Observational evidence for flattened broad-line regions (Gravity Collaboration et al. 2018)

The origin of the clouds and the accretion disk should be related

FRADO model

- Failed Radiatively Accelerated Dusty Outflow (Czerny & Hryniewicz 2011; Czerny et al. 2015, 2016, 2017; Naddaf et al. 2020, 2021).
- Clouds motion led by the **radiation pressure** of the accretion disk **on the dust**.



- Temperature below the dust sublimation but radiation pressure enough to expel matter from the disk
- Once the cloud elevates above the disk, the hotter radiation sublimates the dust
- The cloud follows then a ballistic motion

Shock wave results

• Only high accreting systems have clouds with velocities large enough to produce strong shocks

 The metallicity plays an important role. The velocity of the clouds increases with the metallicity. Only high metallicity systems produce strong shocks.



Solid lines: impact velocity. Dotted line: reverse shock. Dash-dotted line: forward shock. Blue, green, red are different accretion rates: 0.01, 0.1, and 1, respectively.

• Maximum energies and distributions





Protons

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• Maximum energies and distributions





Spectral energy distribution for one impact

Total spectral energy distributions



The **innermost clouds** are the main contributors to the non-thermal emission The **velocities limit** the maximum energy of the particles and define the shape of the SED at MeV energies

 If the effective cloud velocity for the shock production is approx. twice the vertical velocity component, spectra similar to gamma-ray narrow line Seyfert 1 galaxies

Stability of the clouds

Extended **appendix** discussing the **formation** and **destruction** of clouds.



Summary and conclusions

- Collisions of BLR clouds with the accretion disk could lead to the production of relativistic particles and non-thermal emission
- Important in high-accreting systems = contribution to the gamma-radiation of non-jetted systems
- Gamma-emission in Seyfert galaxies
- Significant non-thermal X-ray emission ➡ complements the corona
- Maximum energies of the particles linked to the impact velocities predicted by the BLR model → the electromagnetic radiation of non-thermal origin can be used to test BLR models

THANK YOU!

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