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A physical model for the variability properties of black hole binaries

23 Cack Hole astrophysics: Tales of Power and Destruction WINCHESTER, UK, 18 - 22 JULY 2011



- The truncated disc model as a spectral model
- The truncated disc model as a power spectral model
- Fitting the power spectrum of XTE J1550-564
- Other properties of both model and data





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QPO?

Stella & Vietri 1998: Lense-Thirring precession?





- Asymmetric potential => precession of particle orbits
 - ...Lense-Thirring precession

m = 1 HFGM Mode Frequency = 29 Hz Growth Rate = -0.6 Hz Q = 48 Asymmetric potential
=> precession of particle orbits

...Lense-Thirring precession

Markovic', Lamb, Duez, Engelhard, Fregeau & Huffenberger



Ingram, Done & Fragile 2009





Ingram, Done & Fragile 2009

- QPO is observed in the Comptonized tail
- Need a model that ties the QPO to the tail











Fragile et al 2007








Broadband noise?



MRI

- Magneto Rotational Instability
- Underlying source of viscosity
- Underlying source of variability
- Variability up to very short timescales (~white noise)



Krolik, de Villiers & Hawley

- But emission depends on Mdot
- Mdot can't vary on shorter timescales than the local viscous timescale, t_{visc}(r)



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Sigma-flux relation





Sigma-flux relation



Durham University

Sigma-flux relation

Plot the standard deviation of a segment against the mean of that segment then bin

Rules out simple shot noise models – need causal connection between frequencies

Uttley & McHardy (2001); Uttley, McHardy & Vaughan (2005)





This gives the noise spectrum EMMITED at each annulus

Lyubarskii 1997; Arevalo & Uttley 2006, Kotov et al 2001









r

Ingram & Done 2011b





r

Ingram & Done 2011b





r

Ingram & Done 2011b





Ingram & Done 2011b











r (R_g)





















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Durham

Ingram & Done 2011 a & b

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Conclusions

- Propagating fluctuations model can predict broadband noise shape
- Lense-Thirring precession model can predict QPO frequencies from SAME accretion flow model
- This allows us to fit a physical model to the power spectrum of a black hole for the 1st time
- The evolution of model parameters is self-consistent
- The model also has the capability to explain many other properties ...e.g. frequency jitter, lags, sigma-flux relation, frequency resolved rms spectrum





- On short timescales (3s segments), the QPO frequency correlates with the source flux
- Our model *predicts* this because both precession frequency and flux depend on mass accretion rate







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Heil, Vaughan & Uttley 2011

Ingram & Done 2011







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Heil, Vaughan & Uttley 2011

Ingram & Done 2011





Warping

- All these frequencies depend strongly on radius
- If these rings didn't interact, there would be a huge warp
- But they interact via viscosity





Warping



- For large scale height flow, forms a steady shape that precesses
- What is this steady shape?









frequencie

• This means it is smooth for $r > r_{bw}$ and oscillatory for $r < r_{bw}$.

$$W = l_x + i l_y$$





Warping





Inhomogeneous spectra





Inhomogeneous spectra



log(Energy)











Clearly more high frequency variability in the hard band than in the soft band



Comparing energy bands



Kotov et al 2001 Arevalo & Uttley 2006









Reflection



LOW FREQUENCIES

HIGH FREQUENCIES

Durham University Fourier resolved spectroscopy





- Higher reflection fraction and softer spectrum for lower frequency bands
 – Revnivtsev et al 1999
- Large radius softer, and more reflection, slow variability
- In inner region, higher frequencies and fewer seed photons so harder spectrum and less reflection



Time lags



Kotov et al 2001 Arevalo & Uttley 2006



Time lags





Time lags

Hard energy bands lag soft



Miyamoto & Kitamoto 1988; Kotov et al 2001, Nowak et al 1999, Arevalo & Uttley 2006



Time lags




Lense-Thirring precession

