

Optical Microvariability of Blazars

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We present the results of optical differential photometry of five blazars (PKS 0219+428 (3C66A), PKS 0235+164 (AO 0235+16), H0414+019, PKS 0851+202 (OJ 287) and QSO 1807+698 (3C 371)) that were observed on 7 nights between November 05, 1997 and December 29, 1998, using the B and V band filters. We have detected microvariations in four blazars (3C66A, AO 0235+16, H0414+019, and OJ 287). In addition, the light curve of AO 0235+16 has displayed a mini-flare when the brightness of this source was decreasing. Night-to-night variations have also been detected in 3C66A, H0414+019, and OJ 287. Results of our observations have been discussed in the framework of accretion disk phenomenon (magnetic flares or hot spots in accretion disk) or jet phenomenon (plasma instabilities in jet).