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Double-peaked broad-line H β profiles of 3C390.3 FROM 1995-99. II. the accretion disk model

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DOUBLE-PEAKED BROAD-LINE H_{β} PROFILES OF 3C390.3 FROM 1995-99. II. THE ACCRETION DISK MODEL

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A preliminary fitting by the accretion disk model of the broad H_{β} line profiles of 3C390.3 is presented.

KEY WORDS Galaxies: active – galaxies: individual (3C 390.3) – line: profiles

1 INTRODUCTION

We continue optical monitoring of the broad-line radio galaxy 3C 390.3. Some results of broad-band photometry and spectrophotometry during the period 1995–1999 are presented in Shapovalova *et al.* (2001). A more detailed description of our data (observations, processing) and the results of studying 3C 390.3 will be reported in Shapovalova *et al.* (2001). The main purpose of this paper is to test how an accretion disk model conforms with the time-varying shape of the broad H_{β} profile.

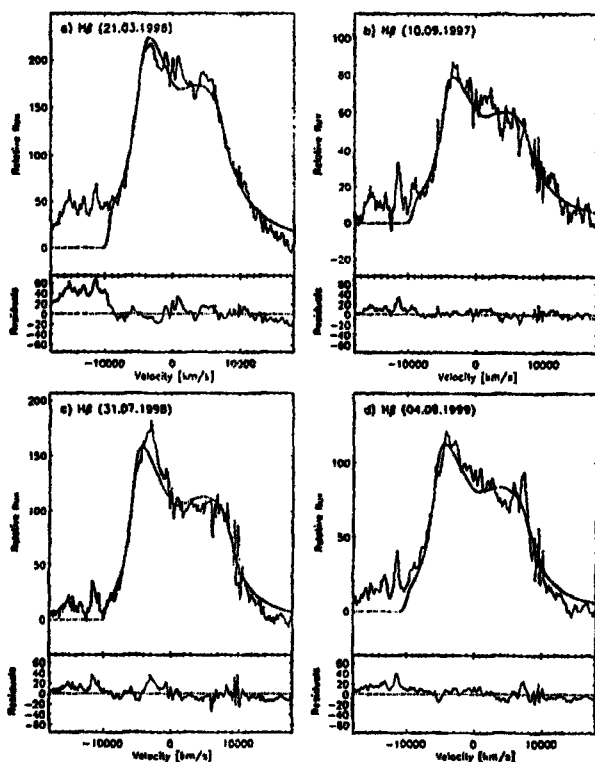


Figure 1 The observed (solid line) and model (dotted line) profiles of the broad at H_{β} emission line. (a), (c) – 3C 390.3 at H_{β} flux maximum and (b), (d) – at minimum.

2 THE ACCRETION DISK MODEL

If the broad hydrogen lines originated in an accretion disk, analysis of their profile variations could provide further information on this disk. In this paper we do not make any hypothesis about the disk structure or how it is illuminated as was done in previous papers (Dumont and Collin, 1990; Rokaki *et al.*, 1992; Rokaki and Boisson, 1999); we want to derive the fundamental parameters of the disk emission. We compute the line profiles emitted by the disk allowing for the relativistic Doppler and gravitational redshifts, using equations given by Gerbal and Pelat (1981) and Chen *et al.* (1989). These equations are valid for inclination angles smaller than 80 degrees, which is the case here. The resulting profiles are double-peaked and asymmetric: they demonstrate two peaks, where blueshifted one is always higher than the redshifted one. They are convolved with the instrumental profiles and fitted to the observed line profiles. We assume that the Balmer lines are emitted by a disk rotating around a static central object with a Keplerian velocity, and that the emissivity varies as a power law of distance R . When we use a single power law,

the line wings cannot be well represented. The fitting to the profiles can be greatly improved using a double emissivity function. The fitting has been carried out for 4 selected profiles distributed in time and representative of the maxima and minima of flux (Figure 1). The fitting gives values for the inclination angle i very similar to those expected: the averaged inclination angle i is equal to 25° with a maximum discrepancy of 3.5° . So, the hypothesis of a disk emitting the broad Balmer lines is relevant. If the inclination angle i is about 25° , the region of maximum emission is at about 200 gravitational radii.

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