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Variability studies of black hole X-ray binaries with NICER

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NICER's X-ray Timing Instrument allows investigating short-term variability of compact objects in the soft (0.2-12 keV) X-ray band. We used publicly available NICER monitoring data of black hole X-ray binary candidates, to investigate their short-term variability and follow it throughout the outburst. Black hole X-ray binaries are known to show a certain variability feature, called quasi-periodic oscillation, which can occur in different flavours depending on the state the source is in. We compare our NICER results to those obtained from other X-ray instruments, present our findings on quasi-periodic oscillations and covariance spectra, and discuss implications.

Topic

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