

AN EIGHT-MONTH MONITORING CAMPAIGN ON A SAMPLE OF AGN

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We present the preliminary results of an 8-month monitoring campaign carried out on 6 AGN during the period December 1991 – July 1992. All but one of our targets showed continuum and/or line variability. The data were obtained using the 2D-Frutti + Cassegrain spectrograph at the CTIO 1.0-m telescope, and reduced following standard procedures. The slit width was 5" and the nuclear spectra were extracted in a 10" aperture. The wavelength coverage is 3500 – 7200Å, with 8Å resolution. The data were flux calibrated using standard stars and then normalized using the [O III] λ 5007Å line flux for each object. NGC 6814: our spectra reveal that this object is still in a low state of activity and within the S/N ratio of our data, no variability was observed during this campaign. The stellar population is dominant in the nuclear spectrum and a synthesis using the star cluster library of Bica (1988) indicates a mainly old (\sim 86% of the continuum flux at 5870Å due to a population with age \geq 10 Gyr), $[Z/Z_{\odot}] \geq 0.3$ stellar content, with an intrinsic reddening of $E(B-V)=0.20$. NGC 3227: using an off-nuclear spectrum corresponding to the two 5"x10" regions 20.4" E/W of the nucleus, we obtained also a mainly old (77% at 5870Å with age \geq 10 Gyr), $[Z/Z_{\odot}]=0.3$ synthetic stellar population, which contributes \sim 43% of the nuclear light at 5600Å. The cross correlation of the 4245Å continuum and H β light curves results in a 18 ± 3 -day lag. IC 4329A: our data show evidence of variability as a slow and constant increase in both continuum and lines fluxes, but no isolated event was detected. ESO141-G55: the light curves show small variations in the continuum, but no noticeable line variability. Akn 120 and Fairall9: the data consists of two sets of spectra, separated by \sim 6 months. Within each set little or no variability was detected, but strong line and continuum variations occurred between them.

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