ORIGINAL ARTICLE

The correlations of multi-wave band luminosity and BLR luminosity in Fermi 2LAC blazars

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Abstract We collect a sample of 78 Fermi detected blazars with broad line region (BLR) data and the quasi-simultaneous multi-wave band data. By analyzing the sample, we find: (1) For whole blazar sample, there exist significant correlations between radio, *γ* -ray luminosity and BLR luminosity. The slope of the best-fit linear regression equation is close to the theoretical value 1. Our results provided another support of jet-disk symbiosis. (2) For FSRQ sample, we find a significant correlation between radio luminosity and optical luminosity, and weaker correlations between X-ray luminosity and radio, optical luminosity. It indicates that the X-ray band radiation mechanism is slightly different from radio and optical bands. The X-ray emission is diluted by inverse Compton scattering (IC). There is a significant correlation between BLR luminosity and *γ* -ray luminosity, but no correlations between X-ray luminosity and BLR, *γ* -ray luminosity, which suggests that the seed soft photons are different for IC process. From these results we suggest that the X-ray band emission is diluted by synchrotron self-Compton (SSC) process, *γ* -ray band emission is produced by external Compton (EC) process.

Keywords Galaxies: active · BL Lacertae objects: general · Galaxies: accretion disks · Galaxies: jets · Radiation mechanisms: non-thermal

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1 Introduction

Active galactic nuclei (AGNs) are the object which has high luminosity and their energy is believed come from the material which is captured by the gravity of the accretion by a supermassive black hole (Lynden-Bell [1969](#page-7-0)). Blazars are the most extreme subclass of AGNs and characterized that highly relativistic jets directed toward our line of sight (Begelman et al. [1984](#page-7-1); Urry and Padovani [1995\)](#page-7-2). Blazars are divided into flat spectrum radio quasars (FSRQs) and BL Lacs, FSRQs have strong emission lines (Equivalent Width, $EW > 5\AA$) while BL Lacs have very weak or no emission lines ($EW \leq 5\AA$).

The typical spectral energy distribution (SED) is one of the important tools to help us study blazars. It consists of non-thermal radiation from jet and thermal radiation from accretion disk, BLR, torus and host galaxies. The thermal radiation can clearly see an independent bulge in ultraviolet from SED (blue bump). In addition to obvious thermal radiation, the typical SED of blazar is generally described by a double-bump structure. In the lepton models, the low energy peak is generally considered synchrotron radiation from relativistic electrons movement in the magnetic field, the range usually from radio band to ultraviolet or soft X-ray band. High energy peak is generally considered IC process, in which the high-energy electrons up-scatters the low energy photons (soft photons), the range usually from hard X-ray band to MeV band, even to TeV band. IC process is mainly divided into two kinds, one is SSC process, the soft photons are derived from the same area of synchrotron radiation (Konigl [1981;](#page-7-3) Marscher and Gear [1985](#page-7-4); Ghisellini and Maraschi [1989](#page-7-5)); the other one is EC process, the soft photons are derived from external photon fields, for example: accretion disk (Dermer and Schlickeiser [1993](#page-7-6); Bloom and Marscher [1996](#page-7-7); Boettcher et al. [1997](#page-7-8)), BLR (Sikora et al. [1994;](#page-7-9) Ghisellini and Madau [1996\)](#page-7-10), torus

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(Błażejowski et al. [2000;](#page-7-11) Ghisellini and Tavecchio [2008\)](#page-7-12) or the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB, Böttcher et al. [2008;](#page-7-13) Yan et al. [2012;](#page-7-14) Meyer et al. [2015](#page-7-15)).

It is well known that the formation and acceleration processes of highly relativistic jets in AGN is one of the most fundamental open problems in astrophysics. There are two main explanations: 1. the origin of the jet kinetic energy is from Kerr black holes (BZ mechanism; Blandford and Znajek [1977](#page-7-16)); 2. the energy is come from the large-scale fields threading the rotating accretion disk (BP mechanism; Blandford and Payne [1982\)](#page-7-17). In both processes, the magnetic field must play a major role, so we can expect a relation between the accretion power and the jet power (Maraschi and Tavecchio [2003\)](#page-7-18).

The luminosity of the BLR can be taken as an indicator of the accretion power of the objects (Celotti et al. [1997\)](#page-7-19). Czerny et al. [\(2004](#page-7-20)) analyzed the consequences of the hypothesis that the formation of BLR is intrinsically connected to the existence of cold accretion disks (Xie et al. [2004,](#page-7-21) [2006,](#page-7-22) [2007\)](#page-7-23). The emission of blazars from radio to *γ* -ray band is dominated by the beamed non-thermal continuum radiation produced in the jet (Urry and Padovani [1995](#page-7-2)). So we can study the physics of relativistic jets and accretion disks by analyzing the correlation between the BLR emission and radio, optical, X-ray, *γ* -ray emissions (Rawlings and Saunders [1991](#page-7-24); Celotti et al. [1997;](#page-7-19) Cao and Jiang [1999](#page-7-25); Xu et al. [1999;](#page-7-26) Xie et al. [2007\)](#page-7-23). Serjeant et al. [\(1998](#page-7-27)) found a significant correlation between radio and optical band emission for a sample of steep-spectrum quasars, the result indicates a direct evidence of a close link between accretion onto BHs and the fueling of relativistic jets. The correlation between the luminosity in radio band and BLR for a sample of radio-loud quasars also was found by Cao and Jiang [\(1999](#page-7-25)).

By studying the correlation between luminosity in the radio, optical, X-ray and *γ* -ray bands from jet, we can find the restrictions of radiation mechanisms of different bands. Padovani et al. [\(1993](#page-7-28)), Stecker et al. [\(1993](#page-7-29)) and Dondi and Ghisellini ([1995\)](#page-7-30) found the existent correlation between the *γ* -ray luminosity and the radio luminosity of blazars. It indicates that *γ* -ray and radio emissions are produced by the same relativistic electrons. However, Muecke et al. ([1997\)](#page-7-31) and Fan et al. ([1998](#page-7-32)) found the *γ* -ray emission is no correlation with 5 GHz radio emissions. There is a positive correlation between F_{γ} and F_{rad} (Cheng et al. [2000\)](#page-7-33) while the present work states that there is no correlation between them (Cheng et al. [2000\)](#page-7-33). Cheng et al. ([2000\)](#page-7-33) considered that the region of radio emission is possibly different from γ -ray emission. Xie et al. ([1997\)](#page-7-34) found that the correlation between the *γ* -ray luminosity and infrared luminosity is better than the correlation between the *γ* -ray luminosity and the luminosity in the optical or X-ray band. They suggested that the γ -ray emission is probably produced from IC process and the soft photons are derived from torus. In all of above cases, they didn't use simultaneous multi-wave bands data for the sources, but the simultaneous data is very critical for emission origin (Cheng et al. [2000\)](#page-7-33).

Other researchers given the restrictions of radiation mechanisms of different bands by other ways. Studies of multiwavelength observation of blazars found that the synchrotron emission of FSRQs seems to extend only to soft X-ray band; the hard X-ray band derive from inverse Compton emission, probably from the SSC process (Catanese et al. [1997;](#page-7-35) Kubo et al. [1998;](#page-7-36) Mukherjee et al. [1999](#page-7-37); Kataoka et al. [1999;](#page-7-38) Takahashi et al. [1999\)](#page-7-39). Inoue and Taka-hara [\(1996](#page-7-40)) and Błażejowski et al. ([2000\)](#page-7-11) succeed in fitting the X-band data with the SSC model. The produced region of *γ* -ray emission is also a current topic. Tavecchio et al. [\(2011](#page-7-41)) successfully used a two-zone model fitting the SED of PKS 1222+216, the VHE γ -ray emission is derived from a compact blob outside the BLR in their model. Aleksić et al. (2011) (2011) (2011) found it can explain the SED of the Very high energy (VHE) γ -rays of PKS 1222+21, if the *γ* -ray emission is not produced within BLR. And many others considered that the locations of γ -ray emission region is outside BLR (Donea and Protheroe [2003](#page-7-43); Liu and Bai [2006;](#page-7-44) Coogan et al. [2016\)](#page-7-45). However, Tavecchio and Ghisellini ([2012](#page-7-46)) considered the VHE *γ* -ray emission produced within the BLR for FSRQs. Böttcher and Els [\(2016](#page-7-47)) confirmed that the γ -ray emission region is inside the inner boundary of the BLR.

In this parer, the (quasi-) simultaneous data are used to study the correlation between the luminosity in the BLR and radio, optical, X-ray, *γ* -ray bands. We provide a new support in observation of jet-disk symbiosis and try to find the radiation mechanisms of different bands. In Sect. [2](#page-1-0) we present our whole blazar sample detected by Fermi *γ* -ray Space Telescope; in Sect. [3](#page-2-0) we give the method of correlation analysis and results; the Sect. [4](#page-2-1) is discussions and conclusions.

2 Sample

In Xue et al. (2016) (2016) , they collect a sample which contains 200 FSRQs and 79 BL Lacs from the second LAT AGN catalog (2LAC). At least one of the two components (synchrotron and IC components) of the blazars in their sample can be fitted by sufficient multifrequency data coverage. They construct the SEDs of all the blazars from the (quasi-) simultaneous multi-frequency data by using the ASDC SED Builder (It is an on-line service developed at the ASI Science Data Center. The database of the ASDC SED Builder provides observational data from many space telescopes and ground-based telescopes; Stratta et al. [2011\)](#page-7-49). They use the log-parabolic law:

$$
\log(vF_v) = c(\log v)^2 + b(\log v) + a \tag{1}
$$

to fit the synchrotron component and IC component separately. The luminosities and frequencies (in the rest frame)

can be calculated through $(\nu L_{\nu})_{syn,IC} = 4\pi D_L^2 (\nu F_{\nu})_{syn,IC}$ and $v_{syn,IC} = (1 + z)v_{syn,IC}^{obs}$, where D_L is the luminosity distance and z is the redshift. During fitting the SEDs, the thermal component that prominent in the UV waveband has been identified and excluded by visual inspection. In this paper we are going to study the correlation of multi-wave band luminosity and BLR luminosity, therefore the simultaneous multiwavelength observations are important. The data of 2LAC catalog are collected over the first 24 months of the mission from 2008 August to 2010 August. In Xue et al. [\(2016](#page-7-48)), we find that the observation date of the simultaneous data of radio, optical and X-ray bands are more likely to be simultaneous with the 2LAC observations. Therefore, we have deliberately not used a more recent 3LAC catalog based on 4 years of Fermi/LAT data (2008 August–2012 August) (Ackermann et al. [2015](#page-7-50)). Ultimately, 63 FSRQs and 15 BL Lacs with the complete SEDs and the data of BLR luminosity in Xue et al. [\(2016](#page-7-48)) are taken as our sample.

According to Abdo et al. [\(2010](#page-7-51)), blazars are classified as low synchrotron peak sources (LSPs) if $\log v_p(Hz) \le 14.0$, intermediate synchrotron peak sources (ISPs), if 14*.*0 *<* $\log v_p(Hz) \le 15.0$, high synchrotron peak sources (HSPs) if $\log v_p(Hz) > 15.0$. Our sample is dominated by LSPs.

The relevant data for 78 blazars are listed in Table [1.](#page-3-0) The columns in this table are as follows.

- 1. Fermi catalogue name;
- 2. Other name;
- 3. Type of the Blazar $(F = flat-spectrum$ radio quasar; $B = BL$ Lac object; $L = LSPs$; $I = ISPs$; $H = HSPs$);
- 4. Redshift;
- 5. The observation date of the simultaneous data;
- 6. The logarithm of the 5 GHz radio luminosity in units of $erg s^{-1}$;
- 7. The logarithm of the optical luminosity at rest wavelength \sim 5100 Å in units of erg s⁻¹;
- 8. The logarithm of the X-ray luminosity about 1 keV in units of $erg s^{-1}$;
- 9. The logarithm of the *γ* -ray luminosity about 100 MeV in units of $erg s^{-1}$;
- 10. The logarithm of the BLR luminosity in units of erg s⁻¹;
- 11. References for BLR data: 1: Xue et al. ([2016\)](#page-7-48); 2: Xiong and Zhang ([2014\)](#page-7-52); 3: Sbarrato et al. ([2012\)](#page-7-53); 4: Celotti et al. ([1997\)](#page-7-19); 5: Cao and Jiang (1999); 6: Xie and Li ([2012\)](#page-7-54).

3 Correlation analysis and results

Using the fitting parameters of the second-degree polynomial function, we calculate the monochromatic luminosity for each band (radio band corresponding to 5 GHz, optical band corresponding to 5100 Å, X band corresponding to 1 keV and γ band corresponding to 100 MeV). Then we

analyze the correlation between the BLR luminosity and radio, optical, X-ray, *γ* -ray luminosity, moreover correlations of the luminosity between each band (radio, optical, X-ray, *γ* -ray band) from jet also have been considered. However, there may exist bias to the correlation results from the effect of strong correlation between the luminosity and redshift, So we should use the partial correlation to avoid the redshift effect. If r_{ij} is the correlation coefficient between r_i and r_j , in the case of three variables, the correlation between two of them, excluding the effect of the third one, is

$$
r_{12,3} = \frac{r_{12} - r_{13}r_{23}}{\sqrt{1 - r_{13}^2}\sqrt{1 - r_{23}^2}}.
$$
 (2)

The results of partial correlation for whole sample are shown in Table [2](#page-5-0), and for FSRQ sample are shown in Table [3](#page-5-1). Besides, according to data of Table [1](#page-3-0), we use linear regression analysis to study the correlation of the luminosity of the BLR with radio, optical, X-ray, *γ* -ray band. The results are shown in Table [4.](#page-5-2)

In addition, we find that the correlation between each band has the following features:

- 1. There are significant correlation between L_{BLR} and L_{rad} , L_{γ} in the whole sample and the FSRQ sample;
- 2. The correlation between *Lrad* and *Lopt* is strong in the FSRQ sample;
- 3. The correlation between L_X and L_{rad} , L_{opt} is strong in the FSRQ sample, but weaker than the correlation between *Lrad* and *Lopt* ;
- 4. There is no correlation between L_X and L_Y in the FSRQ sample.
- 5. There is no correlation between L_X and L_{BLR} in the FSRQ sample.
- 6. There are significant correlations between *γ* -ray luminosity and the radio, optical luminosity in the FSRQ sample.

4 Discussions and conclusions

4.1 Jet and disk connection

Ghisellini ([2006\)](#page-7-55) found that if relativistic jets are powered by a Poynting flux, under some reasonable assumption the power in BZ mechanism can be written as

$$
L_{jet} \sim \frac{L_{disk}}{\eta},\tag{3}
$$

where η is the conversion efficiency of mass into energy in an active nucleus.

In addition, based on the present theories of accretion disk the BLR is photo-ionized by nuclear source (probably radiation from the disk). Maraschi and Tavecchio [\(2003](#page-7-18)) obtained

$$
L_{BLR} = \tau L_{disk},\tag{4}
$$

Table 2 The correlations of the whole blazar sample

		rad (5 GHz)		opt (5100 Å) $X(1 \text{ keV})$ γ (100 MeV)		BLR
rad (5 GHz) r			0.623	0.387	0.796	0.771
	P				1.411×10^{-09} 5.041×10^{-04} 5.463×10^{-18} 2.313×10^{-16}	
opt (5100 Å) r 0.623				0.538	0.718	0.414
		$P = 1.411 \times 10^{-09}$		4.425×10^{-07}	2.057×10^{-13} $1. \times 10^{-04}$	
$X(1 \text{ keV})$ r 0.387			0.538		0.350	0.210
	P	5.041×10^{-04} 4.425×10^{-07}			1.821×10^{-03}	6.712×10^{-02}
γ (100 MeV) r 0.796			0.718	0.350		0.673
			P 5.463×10^{-18} 2.057×10^{-13} 1.821×10^{-03}			2.000×10^{-11}
BLR	r	0.771	0.414	0.210	0.673	
	P			2.313×10^{-16} 1.849×10^{-04} 6.712×10^{-02} 2.000×10^{-11}		

Table 3 The correlations of

log*LBLR* VS log*Lγ* 1*.*086 ± 0*.*076 −1*.*574 ± 3*.*385 0.814 0.656 7*.*163 × 10−¹¹

Table 4 The parameters of linear regression analysis for the whole blazar sample

where τ is the fraction of the central emission reprocessed by the BLR, usually assumed to be 0.1.

From Eqs. (3) (3) and (4) (4) , we get

$$
L_{BLR} = \tau \eta L_{jet}.
$$

From Eq. (5) (5) , we have

$$
\log L_{BLR} = \log L_{jet} + \log \eta + const.
$$
 (6)

Equation [\(6](#page-5-4)) shows that: 1. the theoretical predicted coefficient of $\log L_{BH} - \log L_{jet}$ linear relation is 1; 2. *η* is not the same for all objects, log *η* will contributes to the dispersion around the linear relation, but the impact is not very obvious (Xie [2005\)](#page-7-56).

The results in Table [2](#page-5-0) show that there are correlations between BLR and the four bands (radio, optical, X-ray, *γ* -ray band), and the slope of the linear regression equation is nearly 1 for whole blazar sample, the results are consistent with the theoretical prediction of Eq. ([6\)](#page-5-4). Especially, slopes of the linear relations between BLR luminosity and radio, *γ* -ray luminosity are respectively 0.999, 1.086 which are almost 1. Our results provide a solid experimental basis for the theory of Maraschi and Tavecchio [\(2003\)](#page-7-18) and Ghisellini [\(2006](#page-7-55)).

The BLR emission can be taken as an indicator of the accretion power (Celotti et al. [1997](#page-7-19)), and the radio emission is a good indicator of the jet power (Blandford and Königl [1979;](#page-7-57) Serjeant et al. [1998](#page-7-27); Xie et al. [2007](#page-7-23)). In addition, both the radio emission and *γ* -ray emission are produced in the jet (Urry and Padovani [1995\)](#page-7-2). So the intrinsic correlation between L_{BLR} and L_{rad} , L_{γ} indicate that the formation of jet and accretion disk of Kerr black hole exist a close connection, in other words, the jet and accretion disk is couple and symbiosis for blazar, which is consistent with the result of Ghisellini et al. [\(2009](#page-7-58)), Xie et al. [\(2008](#page-7-59), Xie and Li [2012](#page-7-54)). Our provide a new support in observation.

4.2 Radiation mechanism of various wave bands from jet

FSRQs are the majority of our sample, so we just discuss the radiation mechanism of FSRQs.

There is a significant correlation between *Lrad* and *Lopt* for FSRQ sample, which implies that the emissions of radio and optical are produced by the synchrotron radiation in the jet. This result is consistent with the expectation of the lepton model (e.g., Dermer and Schlickeiser [1993](#page-7-6); Sikora et al. [1994](#page-7-9); Inoue and Takahara [1996](#page-7-40); Katarzyński et al. [2001\)](#page-7-60).

Our results in Table [3](#page-5-1) show significant correlations between L_X and L_{rad} , L_{opt} , which are weaker than the correlation between L_{rad} and L_{opt} . It indicates that the X-ray emission might come from a mixture of both SSC process and synchrotron radiation. Other researchers (e.g., Paliya et al. [2015;](#page-7-61) Kang [2017\)](#page-7-62) have also reached the same results.

As already mentioned in the introduction section, the possible origins of the soft photons include synchrotron radiation (SSC), accretion disk, BLR, torus and CMB. The fact that there exists a weak but still significant correlation between L_{BLR} and L_{γ} and this might be interpreted that the photons from the BLR are only one of the sources of the soft photons needed for the IC process. However, the SSC mechanism do not dominate the L_{γ} and the details is as follows.

All FSRQs are LSPs in our sample, so their synchrotron peak frequencies is less than 10^{14} Hz. If very extreme conditions are not taken into account, the SSC peak frequency rarely reaches the *γ* -ray frequency considered in Table [3](#page-5-1) $(10^{22.38}$ Hz) according to the common homogeneous single zone SSC model. Moreover, another evidence supporting our conclusion is that there is no correlation between L_X and L_Y ($p = 0.03$), which is supposed to present if the SSC mechanism is the dominating process of the L_X . Some researchers (e.g., Ghisellini et al. [2010,](#page-7-63) [2002](#page-7-64); Celotti and Ghisellini [2008;](#page-7-65) Finke [2013\)](#page-7-66) have also obtained similar re-sults in different ways. Such as Xue et al. [\(2016](#page-7-48)) have analyzed the slope of the best linear regression that given by the correlation between the IC luminosity and the synchrotron luminosity, they suggested that the high-energy component of FSRQs is dominated by EC process.

In Fan et al. [\(2016\)](#page-7-67), non-simultaneous multi-wavelength data were compiled for a sample of 1425 Fermi 3LAC blazars to calculate their SEDs. They studied correlations

Fig. 1 The soft photon Energy densities of accretion disk (*blue line*), BLR (*red line*), dust (*yellow line*), and CMB (*green line*) as seen in the jet comoving frame, as a function of distance from the central engine. r_{BLR} and r_{IR} are characteristic radii of BLR and torus

between gamma-ray emissions and lower energy monochromatic emissions. They found significant correlations between *γ* -ray luminosity and the radio, optical luminosity, a weak correlation between *γ* -ray luminosity and X-ray luminosity. And they considered that the *γ* -ray emission is strongly believed to come from EC process and the X-ray emission is come from a mixture of both EC process and synchrotron radiation. The results are similar with us except that we think the X-ray emission is come from a mixture of both SSC process and synchrotron radiation.

At the same time, we have calculated the different soft photon energy density with radiation location changes (Fig. [1](#page-6-0)). The energy density approximated by formulae for BLR and torus is come from Hayashida et al. ([2012\)](#page-7-68), for CMB is come from Ghisellini and Tavecchio [\(2009](#page-7-69)), for disk is come from Sikora et al. ([2009\)](#page-7-70). When the radiation zone is located between r_{BLR} and r_{IR} , the energy density of BLR and torus are almost equal and both of them dominate the soft photons together. When the radiation region is located very close to the central engine, the energy density of BLR and disk are almost equal. When the radiation region is far away from the central black hole (beyond 100 pc), the BLR, torus and CMB should dominate the soft photons together. Therefore, at least for our sample, the candidates for the sources of the soft photons for L_{γ} include BLR, disk, torus, and CMB.

In summary, for most FSRQs, We consider the emissions of radio and optical are produced by the synchrotron radiation. The X-ray emission is come from the mixture of SSC and synchrotron process. The *γ* -ray emission is dominated by EC process and the possible sources are mixture of BLR and torus, of BLR and disk, or of BLR, torus and CMB.

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