

8.2 : Presentation of Light Curves

In figure 8-1, we present the light curves for all the QSOs listed in table 8-1. The error bars refer to 1σ error in the differential magnitudes. The magnitude scale set on the vertical axis is set by standard star solutions under the best photometric conditions available and has an error of no smaller than 0.03 mag.

The solid squares indicate measurements taken at Lick with either the R_s or V2 filter. The open squares are measurements taken at the KPNO #1-36" and/or with a filter other than R_s or V2.

The horizontal axis marks time (Earth frame) in increments of years and months. The title at the bottom of each plot gives the coordinate name (1950.0) for the QSO, the object name or origin of the identification, the filter used (at Lick), the mean magnitude (of the solid squares only), the rating (1=best,5=worse) of the best photometric conditions available for this object, and the log of the probability that the points are consistent with a constant flux ($\log(P)$).

8.3 : Analysis of Variability

In figures 8-2 through 8-4, we present graphical summaries of the QSO variability in our sample. In all these graphs we have used only the light curve data taken at Lick with the R_s filter. We also exclude any object with less than 3 epochs. All the QSOs within this subset have a total timespan of observations of between 9 months and 3 years. We have included QSOs from the FOS target sample. We have excluded the following QSOs: UM 139 (near a bright star, poor aperture photometry), H1413+117 (non-pointlike gravitational lens image, possible microlensing variability), AO 0235+164 (OVV \equiv Optically Violent Variable), and PKS 0735+178 (OVV). The photometry on two other BALQSOs, 0903+1734 and 2201-1834, may also be affected by nearby stars or galaxies (see chapter 7), but the estimated additional error was not large enough to warrant throwing out these QSOs.