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Model Independent Measurements of Angular Power Spectra

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Spatial fluctuations of astrophysical signals are a powerful probe of source distributions, radiation production mechanisms, and propagation effects. The precision of measuring angular power spectra is currently estimated as a combination of shot noise, instrument systematics, and cosmic variance. We show that an important contribution, dependent on the finite statistics of the experiment, has been neglected. These new results allow for improved estimates of sensitivities to angular power by statistics-limited observations, such as for high-energy gamma rays.

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