

## Long-term X-ray variability in blazars and its multiwaveband context

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### Summary

Since the X-ray emission from blazars is variable on all time-scales, long-term monitoring is required to characterize it and relate it to the physics of the relativistic jets. The best approach involves comprehensive multiwaveband observations. These include (1) millimeter-wave VLBI to image the structure of the jet and magnetic field on the smallest possible scales, (2) optical polarization so that features on the VLBI images with unique polarization direction can be associated with the variable optical emission, and (3) light curves for cross-frequency correlation analysis. The author and his collaborators have been carrying out such an effort over a number of years. The results thus far are very revealing, and promise to be more so during the next several years when GLAST will be producing very well sampled gamma-ray light curves for many blazars.

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