A strong radio brightening at the jet base of M87 during the elevated VHE γ-ray state in 2012

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M87

- One of the nearest (16Mpc) γ-ray detected AGNs up to GeV, TeV
- Well-studied jet at radio, optical, and X-ray
- Subpc/mpc-scale jet imaging
 with VLBI
 - 1mas = 0.08pc = 140Rs
- Ideal source to probe the origin
 of γ-ray emission by resolving
 detailed substructures



Where is the γ-ray production site in M87? Two candidates



A new TeV activity detected in Feb/Mar 2012 (Beilicke & VERITAS Collaboration 2012)



- Not extreme, but clearly elevated TeV state (a factor of 2)
- To see the MWL behavior, and to examine the location of this event, we report our VLBI monitoring results of M87 around 2011/2012, together with contemporaneous LAT light curves

M87 joint monitoring 2011/2012

VERA @ 22GHz (~1mas)
24 epochs in Sep/2011-Sep/2012
VERA @ 43GHz (~0.5mas)
6 epochs in Feb-May/2012
EVN @ 5GHz (~2mas)
9 epochs in Mar/2011-Oct/2012

 To image HST-1 region at a better sensitivity





Fermi-LAT (0.1-100GeV)

- Feb/2011-Sep/2012
- Light curves were created with 1&2month bins (M87 is a weak source for Fermi)

Milliarcsec-scale images









Radio flare at jet base

Core positions on the sky Radio core light curves with VERA 22/43G astrometry 0.6 AUG SEP OCK NOV DEC Jan Feb Mar APT MAY IUN JUI AUG SEP OCT 2.0 VERA 43GHz VERA 43GHz core (peak 0.6mas) VERA 43GHz (weighted mean) 43G VERA 22GHz core (peak 0.6mas) VERA 22GHz EVN 5GHz core (peak 1.5mas) 1.8 VERA 22GHz (weighted mean) 0.4 22G 1.6 22G Relative Declination (mas) core 0.2 1.4 $S_{\nu}/S_{\nu,\mathrm{base}}$ 1.2 0.0 5G 1.0 430 core 8.0 -0.2TeV event 0.6 period 55900 56200 55800 56000 56100 -0.40.2 -0.4 0.0 -0.2 -0.6 Time (MJD) Relative R.A. (mas)

- Frequency-dependent flare evolution (time-lag, amplitude)
- Detection of "core-shift" during the radio flare
- The active event originates in an optically-thick region at these radio frequencies

The location of the 2012 event

Core/TeV joint enhancement

~70% rise of radio flux is very rare in M87 core (only seen in the 2008 event) Quiescent HST-1 (flux&structure)

 favor the 2012 TeV event originates in the jet base (within ~0.03pc or ~56R_s)

Tavecchio&Ghisellini 2008, Aleksic+ 2012





- Spine-sheath structure is often favored in M87 sub-pc jet, but this scenario does not necessarily expect radio/TeV joint flares
 - 2008/2012 cases may imply that the radio/ TeV regions are spatially not separated

Project upgrade: Jet base monitor with VERA+KVN joint array



- Dramatic improvement of image quality
- Better constraint on the mas-scale properties of the jet base region

Summary

- We reported a multi-band radio and MeV/GeV study using VERA, EVN and LAT during the elevated VHE gamma-ray state in 2012
- We detected a remarkable flux increase from the radio core at the jet base coincidentally with the TeV enhancement, while HST-1 was quiescent. These results favors that the TeV event in 2012 originates in the core near the central engine (similar to the case in 2008)
- The LAT light curves did not show any significant flux enhancement during the period of the TeV activity, but could show a possible state change after the TeV period (although the statistics are still low)