

The TANAMI Program

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Abstract. TANAMI (Tracking Active Galactic Nuclei with Austral Milliarcsecond Interferometry) is a monitoring program to study the parsec-scale structures and dynamics of relativistic jets in active galactic nuclei (AGN) of the Southern Hemisphere with the Long Baseline Array and associated telescopes. Extragalactic jets south of -30° declination are observed at 8.4 GHz and 22 GHz every two months at milliarcsecond resolution. The initial TANAMI sample is a hybrid radio and γ -ray selected sample since the combination of VLBI and γ -ray observations is crucial to understand the broadband emission characteristics of AGN.

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TANAMI (Tracking Active Galactic Nuclei with Austral Milliarcsecond Interferometry) observations are made with the five antennas of the Australian Long Baseline array, telescopes at NASA's Deep Space Network facility near Canberra (Australia), the Hartebeesthoek telescope (South Africa; currently inoperative), TIGO (Chile), and O'Higgins (Antarctica). A typical (u - v)-coverage for a source at -43° declination is shown in Fig.1, providing an angular resolution of about 0.9 – 0.6 mas at 8.4 GHz. At each frequency one 24-hour epoch including 24 sources is observed approximately every two months.

The initial TANAMI sample of 43 sources has been defined combining a radio selected flux-density limited subsample and a γ -ray selected subsample of known and candidate γ -ray sources based on results of *CGRO/EGRET*. It contains all known radio sources from the catalogue of Stickel et al. (1994) above a limiting radio flux density of $S_{5\text{GHz}} > 2\text{Jy}$ which have a flat spectrum between 2.7 GHz and 5 GHz. Since 2008 November, new *Fermi* LAT-detected AGN have added to the monitoring program so that the sample now consists of all known radio- and γ -ray bright AGN of the Southern Hemisphere.

For a better understanding of jet structure and dynamics, multiwavelength observations are fundamental. The emission of blazars extends over the whole electromagnetic spectrum and a close connection between γ -ray and radio emission is suggested. The analysis of radio-jet properties of LAT-detected TANAMI sources helps to answer key questions concerning beaming factors of superluminal motion, origin of high

energy production, and the connection between γ -ray flares and jet-component ejections.

First results of the TANAMI program are discussed by Ojha et al. (submitted to A&A) and summarized below.

The middle and right panels of Fig. 1 show examples of 8.4 and 22 GHz images of the γ -ray bright BL Lac object PKS B 0521–365, respectively. After 3 months of observations, $\sim 28\%$ of TANAMI sources have been detected by *Fermi*-LAT. The redshift distribution of quasars peaks at $z \sim 1.5$, while BL Lacs and galaxies are distributed at $z < 0.4$ resembling the distributions for the bright γ -ray AGN seen by LAT (Abdo et al. 2009). The five most distant and most luminous TANAMI sources and the 9 most luminous radio loud AGN have not been detected by LAT in the first three months of operation. There is no significant difference in the brightness temperature distributions of LAT detected and non-detected sources. Quasars have the higher T_B -values; 13 of the initial 43 sources have a maximum T_B below the equipartition value, 29 below the inverse Compton limit, putting about a third of the sources above this limit. Furthermore our analysis suggests that γ -ray bright AGN have larger opening angles than those not detected by LAT, when excluding galaxies.

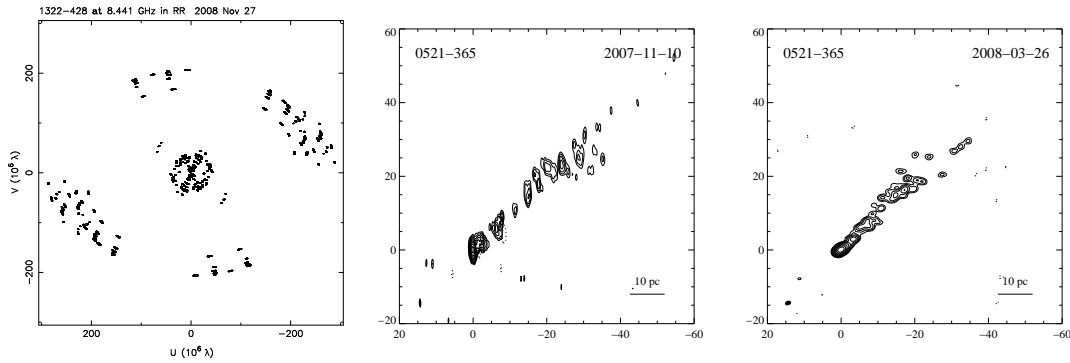


FIGURE 1. Typical $(u-v)$ -coverage at 8.4 GHz for Centaurus A (left); 8.4 GHz (middle) and 22 GHz (right) images of PKS B 0521–365. The units of the images are in milliarcseconds and measured relative to the core at each frequency; the lowest contours are at 1.5 mJy and 1.8 mJy, respectively.

REFERENCES

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