Kinematics of the M87 Jet in the Collimation Zone: Gradual Acceleration and Velocity Stratification



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Highly Collimated and Relativistic Jets of AGNs



Highly collimated, very narrow jets





Jet Acceleration & Collimation

: a "pipeline" to produce highly collimated relativistic AGN jets



Total Energy Flux \approx Poynting Flux + Kinetic Energy Flux $\frac{\text{Poynting flux}}{\text{Total energy flux}} \propto r^2 B_p$ $B_p \delta S = \text{const}$ $\delta S = r \delta l_\perp$ $\frac{\text{Poynting flux}}{\text{Total energy flux}} \propto \frac{r}{\delta l_\perp}$

'Differential Collimation' of Poloidal Field Lines: Inner fields are more collimated than outer lines



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Jet Collimation in nearby AGN jets



Jet Collimation in nearby AGN jets



Jet Collimation in M87



IS THE M87 JET ACCELERATED TO RELATIVISTIC SPEEDS IN THE COLLIMATION ZONE?









THE MOJAVE MONITORING PROGRAM

VLBA 15 GHz over ~10 years Sampling Interval : ~6 months





Modelfit works very well for most blazars whose jets consist of several "knots"

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EVN OBSERVATIONS

EVN 1.6 GHz in three epochs Sampling Interval : ~1 year









Kinematics of the M87 jet : 2. Visual Inspection



Hada et al. (2016)

Kinematics of the M87 jet : 2. Visual Inspection





different epochs by 'Visual Inspection'







Kinematics of the M87 jet : 3. WISE



Mertens et al. (2016)

WISE (Wavelet-based Image Segmentation and Evaluation)

Wavelet Transformation (Detect brightness patterns)

2D Cross-Correlation (Kinematics)

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The brightness difference : due to the Doppler boosting/deboosting







KVN and VERA Array (KaVA)





- Good Sensitivity.
- Reasonably good angular resolution.
- Good uv-coverage.

 \rightarrow KaVA Large Program : Observations of M87 'biweekly' at 22 & 43 GHz (~10 epochs per year).
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KVN and VERA Array (KaVA) → The East Asian VLBI Network (EAVN)



An + (2018)

KaVA observations in 2016 : 1. modelfit



QG3 57d OG 70d 80d 100d 113d

145d 154d

167d

2

Offset in Jet Direction (mas)

43 GHz

-8

KaVA observations in 2016 : 1. modelfit



KaVA observations in 2016 : 2. Visual Inspection







THE KAVA LARGE PROGRAM (~2 WEEKS)

KaVA observations in 2016 : 3. WISE

THE KAVA LARGE PROGRAM (~2 WEEKS)











VLBA ARCHIVAL DATA ANALYSIS

VLBA 1.7 GHz over ~4 years Sampling Interval : ~2 months



Compared to the EVN observations by Asada et al...

- Improved Sensitivity (by a factor of > a few).
- Improved Angular Resolution (by a factor of >2).
- Denser Monitoring (Interval : ~2 months).

VLBA archival data analysis : 1. modelfit



VLBA archival data analysis : 2. WISE















We studied jet acceleration of M87 with KaVA and VLBA data and our results suggest a **GRADUAL JET ACCELERATION IN THE SAME REGION AS THE COLLIMATION ZONE.** \rightarrow **SUPPORTS THE MAGNETIC JET ACCELERATION MODEL.**



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Discussion: Origin of the stationary features in the jet?



Several 'apparently stationary' features exist in the jet at ~20, ~65, and ~165 mas.

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Several 'apparently stationary' features exist in the jet at ~20, ~65, and ~165 mas. \rightarrow They may not be 'physically' stationary but result from the re-brightening of the jet (regions of particle acceleration? Or local Doppler boosting enhancement?).



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Discussion: Slow Jet Acceleration



Kinematics of the M87 jet : 4. Jet-to-counterjet brightness ratio



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THE HIGHLY MAGNETIZED JET BASE OF M87

 $U_B \gg U_p$









— The jet motion is not as fast as what the models of highly magnetized jet predict.



The Poynting flux conversion may not be as efficient as in an ideal case.

Discussion: Slow Jet Acceleration



Additional mass entrainment from the outer slower winds?



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The observed jet may consist of 'multiple streamlines' following different acceleration profiles, naturally resulting in the lateral velocity stratification.



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Conclusions (Park et al. 2019b, ApJ, 887, 147)

— We studied the jet kinematics by using the densely monitored data observed with KaVA at 22 and 43 GHz and using archival VLBA data at 1.7 GHz.

— We found that the M87 jet is gradually accelerated to relativistic speeds in the same region as the jet collimation zone, as predicted by MHD models.



Backup Slides



Jets must be confined (or collimated) by an external medium!



Mizuno+ (2007)



