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Radio Monitoring Projects at Metsähovi Radio Observatory

Wednesday, December 7, 2016 5:15 PM (30 minutes)

I will present the ongoing blazar monitoring programme and other AGN observing projects of Aalto University Metsähovi Radio Observatory (MRO) in Finland.

MRO has been operational for more than 40 years now, and even though we struggle with decreasing funding for basic research just like many other research units nowadays do, our streamlined operations and flexibility allow for a multitude of different kinds of observing projects.

The backbone of our observing programme is the dense, long term monitoring of approximately one hundred blazars at 37 GHz (and somewhat less at 22 GHz). But in addition to that, we carry out also many other AGN observing projects, trying to optimally use the observing time between the core monitoring sample, some “high-risk” projects involving faint sources or large samples, as well as Target-of-Opportunity projects that call for a quick response.

In recent years, the focus of our research has been in multifrequency studies related to the Planck satellite’s extragalactic foreground source programme, and radio to gamma-ray connection in blazars. Currently we are also observing samples of younger radio sources, such as Gigahertz Peaked Spectrum sources and Narrow-Line Seyfert 1 galaxies.
I will describe our observing programmes and the science goals which ultimately aim for a better understading of blazar unification and evolution.

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