

Preface

Blazars represent a small subset of the most enigmatic class of radio-loud active galactic nuclei (AGN), which exhibit strong variability at all wavelengths of the electromagnetic (EM) spectrum, strong polarization at radio to optical wavelengths, and usually core-dominated radio structures. Blazars are among the most suitable objects for simultaneous multi-wavelength observations in order to comprehend the most puzzling issue of blazar emission mechanism through its spectral energy distribution. During the last decade, ground-based (HESS, MAGIC, VERITAS, etc.) and space-based (Fermi, Swift, etc.) observing facilities in gamma-rays have revolutionized research in the field of blazars and consequently a large number of new, very high energy gamma-ray (GeV to TeV) emitting blazars have been discovered. As both blazar flux and polarization show variability on diverse timescales in isolated EM band, simultaneous observations at multi EM bands would be potentially important for understanding the central engine, standard models of AGN, etc. Empowered with today's growing multi-wavelength observing facilities, this is a feasible reality.

The international conference on **Variability of Blazars: From Jansky to Fermi**, the proceedings of which comprise this special issue of *Journal of Astrophysics & Astronomy* was held at Guangzhou University, in Guangzhou, which is one of the biggest cities in China widely known both for its modernity and its traditional history. This conference was held during December 14–16, 2012. Interestingly, of the earlier four international conferences dedicated to the subject of blazars, the fourth was held at Guangzhou in 2010. The earlier three were held in Pittsburg, USA (1978); Coma, Italy (1988) and Turku, Finland (1998).

This conference of December 2012 was attended by 135 participants from around the globe. The programme included 12 invited talks, 31 contributed talks, and 63 posters.

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Guest Editors

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