

Radio-to- γ -ray monitoring of the narrow-line Seyfert 1 galaxy PMN J0948+0022 from 2008 to 2011^{★,★★}

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ABSTRACT

We present more than three years of observations at different frequencies, from radio to high-energy γ -rays, of the Narrow-Line Seyfert 1 (NLS1) Galaxy PMN J0948+0022 ($z = 0.585$). This source is the first NLS1 detected at energies above 100 MeV and therefore can be considered the prototype of this emerging new class of γ -ray emitting active galactic nuclei (AGN). The observations performed from 2008 August 1 to 2011 December 31 confirmed that PMN J0948+0022 generates a powerful relativistic jet, which is able to develop an isotropic luminosity at γ -rays of the order of 10^{48} erg s⁻¹, at the level of powerful quasars. The evolution of the radiation emission of this source in 2009 and 2010 followed the canonical expectations of relativistic jets with correlated multiwavelength variability (γ -rays followed by radio emission after a few months), but it was difficult to retrieve a similar pattern in the light curves of 2011. The comparison of γ -ray spectra before and including 2011 data suggested that there was a softening of the high-energy spectral slope. We selected five specific epochs to be studied by modelling the broad-band spectrum, which are characterised by an outburst at γ -rays or very low/high flux at other wavelengths. The observed variability can largely be explained by changes in the injected power, the bulk Lorentz factor of the jet, or the electron spectrum. The characteristic time scale of doubling/halving flux ranges from a few days to a few months, depending on the frequency and the sampling rate. The shortest doubling time scale at γ -rays is 2.3 ± 0.5 days. These small values underline the need of highly sampled multiwavelength campaigns to better understand the physics of these sources.

Key words. galaxies: jets – galaxies: Seyfert – gamma rays: galaxies – galaxies: individual: PMN J0948+0022

1. Introduction

PMN J0948+0022 (also known as SDSS J094857.31+002225.4, $z = 0.585 \pm 0.001^1$) is a very peculiar active galactic nucleus

¹ Sloan Digital Sky Survey Team, SDSS Data Release 2, 2004 Nov. 18 from: <http://www.sdss.org/dr2/products/spectra/getspectra.html>

* Appendix A is available in electronic form at

<http://www.aanda.org>

** Data displayed in Figs. A.1–A.3 are only available in electronic form at the CDS via anonymous ftp to

cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr (130.79.128.5) or via

<http://cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr/viz-bin/qcat?J/A+A/548/A106>

(AGN), with an optical spectrum of a Narrow-Line Seyfert 1 (NLS1) galaxy (Williams et al. 2002). Zhou et al. (2003) first reported the unexpected connection of its NLS1 character with strong and flat-spectrum radio emission. The optical spectrum of PMN J0948+0022 exhibits the usual characteristics of NLS1s (cf. Osterbrock & Pogge 1985; Goodrich 1989): $FWHM(H\beta) = 1500 \pm 55 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, $[OIII]/H\beta < 3$, strong optical FeII emission (Zhou et al. 2003). Such types of AGN are generally radio quiet (Ulvestadt et al. 1995; Komossa et al. 2006), so it was a surprise to detect strong radio emission. The radio power at 5 GHz was measured to be $\sim 10^{43} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$, a relatively small value for a blazar, but very high for a NLS1, resulting in a radio loudness $RL = f_{5 \text{ GHz}}/f_{440 \text{ nm}} \gtrsim 10^3$ (Zhou et al. 2003). This value is among the highest for a NLS1, although not the highest (cf. Fig. 3 in Foschini 2011a). The inverted spectrum ($\alpha_{5-10 \text{ GHz}} \sim -0.24$, with $f_\nu \propto \nu^{-\alpha}$) and high brightness temperature ($T_b \gtrsim 10^{13} \text{ K}$) suggest the presence of a relativistic jet viewed at small angles (Zhou et al. 2003; Doi et al. 2006), similar to the conditions found in blazars (Blandford & Rees 1978).

Confirmation of a powerful relativistic jet viewed at small angle arrived with the launch of the *Fermi* Gamma-ray Space Telescope (hereafter *Fermi*). It carries onboard the Large Area Telescope (LAT, Atwood et al. 2009), which operates in the energy band from 100 MeV to more than 300 GeV and performs an all-sky survey every two orbits ($\sim 3 \text{ h}$). During its early months of operation, LAT detected variable high-energy γ -ray radiation from PMN J0948+0022 (Abdo et al. 2009a,b, Foschini et al. 2010); after one year, the number of γ -NLS1s increased to four (Abdo et al. 2009c). To date, there are five high-confidence (Test Statistic $TS > 25$, see Mattox et al. 1996, for a definition of TS) and three low-confidence ($TS = 9-25$) γ -ray detections of NLS1 plus a similar number of candidates in the possible parent population² (see Foschini 2011a, for a review).

The importance of the research resides in understanding a few fundamental points. On one side, there are blazars (beamed population) and radio galaxies (unbeamed parent population). They have the mass of the compact object in the range $\sim 10^8-10^{10} M_\odot$, accretion discs spanning a wide range of luminosities, from $\sim 10^{-6}$ to a significant fraction of the Eddington limit (e.g. Ghisellini et al. 2010; Foschini 2011b), and the host galaxy is elliptical (e.g. Kirhakos et al. 1999). On the other side, there are the γ -NLS1s (beamed population) plus an unbeamed parent population yet to be exploited, which have the central supermassive black hole with masses between $\sim 10^6-10^8 M_\odot$ and accretion disc luminosities close to the Eddington limit (e.g. Foschini 2011a,b). In addition, a few of them are hosted in spirals, possibly having undergone a recent merger (see Yuan et al. 2008; Foschini 2011a,b, 2012; Hamilton & Foschini 2012). Therefore, it is now possible to study AGN with powerful relativistic jets in objects that exhibit an unexplored range of central black hole masses and rates (cf. Fig. 8 in Foschini 2011a).

PMN J0948+0022 has been highly active during the past three and a half years. Radio data from Owens Valley Radio Observatory (OVRO) extending back to one year before the launch of *Fermi* (see Abdo et al. 2009a, Fig. 2, Panel C) displayed a radio flux density at 15 GHz that reached up to $\sim 1 \text{ Jy}$ on 2008 January, a factor $\sim 2-3$ above the value at the time of the discovery (2008 August-December). The first multiwavelength (MW) campaign organised in 2009 March-July revealed

continuing activity (Abdo et al. 2009b; see also Giroletti et al. 2011, for e -VLBI observations), and in 2010 July the source erupted into an exceptional outburst with a peak γ -ray isotropic luminosity of $\sim 10^{48} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ (Donato et al. 2010; Foschini 2010; Foschini et al. 2011a,b). The new data presented here show that the activity continued into 2011 as well.

PMN J0948+0022 has been the target of several observations at almost every waveband during the past three and a half years (2008 August 1–2011 December 31), resulting in an impressive wealth of data. We present here a comprehensive study of all these data in order to set up some firm pillars in our understanding of the prototype of this new class of γ -ray AGN. Part of the data presented here has been already published by the Abdo et al. (2009a,b,c), Foschini et al. (2011a,b), and Angelakis et al. (2012); however, they have been reanalysed using the most recent software version and calibration database. This is particularly important in the case of LAT data, where the update from the P6 to P7 instrument response function determined important changes in the analyses (cf. Abdo et al. 2010a, with Nolan et al. 2012). The effects of these changes on the 2010 July outburst were presented in Foschini et al. (2011b), and the present work reports about the reanalysis of the whole period 2008–2011. In addition, the 2011 data are presented here for the first time.

The work is structured as follows: after the introduction, Sect. 2 describes the instruments and facilities used for the observations, along with the techniques for data analysis. A general overview of the data (avoiding interpretations) is given in Sect. 3. Five specific periods were selected, and the corresponding broad-band spectra were studied with the one-zone synchrotron and inverse-Compton model by Ghisellini & Tavecchio (2009). This part is described in Sect. 4. Some final remarks (Sect. 5) conclude the work.

Throughout this work, the luminosities were calculated by assuming a Λ CDM cosmology with a Hubble-Lemaître constant $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ and $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.73$ (Komatsu et al. 2011). The luminosity distance of PMN J0948+0022 is then 3462 Mpc and 1 arcsec corresponds to 6.68 kpc. In the following, the dates will be indicated either as YYYY Month DD, or modified Julian date (MJD), or days since 2008 August 1 (MJD–54 679).

2. Data analysis

2.1. *Fermi* Large Area Telescope

We retrieved from the *Fermi* Science Support Center³ the publicly available LAT data. We selected the photons of class 2 with energy between 100 MeV and 100 GeV recorded between 2008 August 4 15:43 UTC and 2011 December 31 24:00 UTC in a circular region around the position of PMN J0948+0022 with 10° radius. The data were analysed using LAT Science Tools v. 9.27.1, together with the Instrument Response Function (IRF) Pass 7 and the corresponding isotropic and Galactic diffuse background models⁴. The adopted procedures are standard and described in detail in the analysis threads available online at the *Fermi* SSC.

The data were fitted with a single power-law model. The analysis of all the data integrated into one single block resulted in 4951 photons predicted by the model, which in turn corresponds to a flux $F_{0.1-100 \text{ GeV}} = (1.36 \pm 0.03) \times 10^{-7} \text{ ph cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ and a photon index $\Gamma = 2.67 \pm 0.03$. The likelihood of detection is expressed by means of the Test Statistic (TS , Mattox et al. 1996), which, as a rule of thumb, is linked to the significance $n\sigma$

² The current status of the search for high-energy γ -ray emission from NLS1s and the related suggested parent population is available on the web page <http://tinyurl.com/gnls1s> prepared by LF.

³ <http://fermi.gsfc.nasa.gov/ssc/data/>

⁴ See the documentation available online at the *Fermi* SSC.

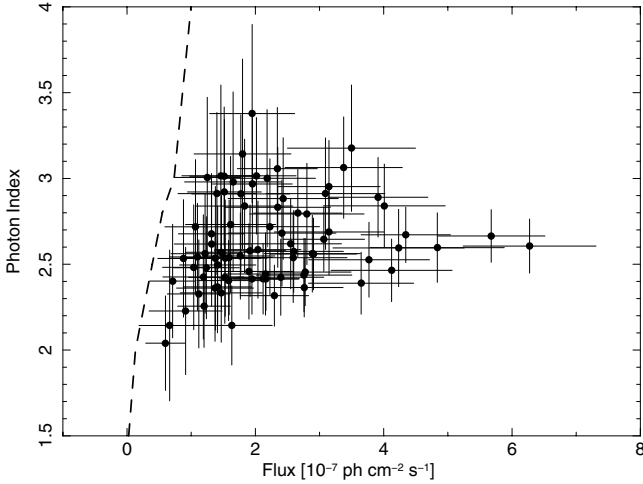


Fig. 1. γ -ray power-law model photon index as a function of the 0.1–100 GeV flux. The data points represent seven-day bins. The dashed line marks the *Fermi*/LAT seven-day detection threshold ($TS = 9$), as extrapolated from Abdo et al. (2010a).

as $\sqrt{TS}\sigma$. For the *Fermi* observations of PMN J0948+0022, $TS = 2015$.

In the 2FGL catalogue (Nolan et al. 2012), the energy distribution $N(E)$ of PMN J0948+0022 is fitted with a log-parabola model of the form

$$N(E) = N_0 \left(\frac{E}{E_p} \right)^{\alpha + \beta \ln\left(\frac{E}{E_p}\right)}, \quad (1)$$

where N_0 is the normalisation [$\text{ph cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1} \text{MeV}^{-1}$], α is the photon index at the pivot energy E_p [MeV], and β is the curvature index. Specifically for PMN J0948+0022, the parameters have the following values: $N_0 = (1.39 \pm 0.07) \times 10^{-10} \text{ ph cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1} \text{MeV}^{-1}$, $\alpha = 2.26 \pm 0.08$, $\beta = 0.26 \pm 0.06$, $E_p \sim 272 \text{ MeV}$, and refer to the period 2008 August 4–2010 July 31 (Nolan et al. 2012).

For comparison, using the same model for the integrated data considered here (2008 August 4–2011 December 31), we obtain values of $N_0 = (1.23 \pm 0.03) \times 10^{-10} \text{ ph cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1} \text{MeV}^{-1}$, $\alpha = 2.45 \pm 0.03$, $\beta = 0.23 \pm 0.02$, and $E_p = (313 \pm 3) \text{ MeV}$. In total, 4802 photons are predicted by the model, corresponding to an integrated flux of $F_{0.1-100 \text{ GeV}} = (1.21 \pm 0.03) \times 10^{-7} \text{ ph cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$, and $TS = 2070$. The changes are basically due to the addition of the 2011 data, when the source was strongly active for almost the entire year (see Sect. 3, Fig. 3, top panel), and slight softening of the spectrum occurred (α increased by ~ 0.2 , while the curvature β remained constant).

Figure 1 displays the behaviour of the γ -ray spectral slope as a function of the seven-day integrated flux in the 0.1–100 GeV energy band. The measured photon index is that of the power-law model. While no strong spectral changes can be observed on short time scales, they could be present during longer periods, as shown from the above comparison of the 2FGL data with the present work.

The γ -ray light curve in Figs. 3 (top panel) and A.1 (top left-hand panel) was built with one-day time bins, assuming a power-law model with $\Gamma = 2.67$ (i.e. the value from the integration of the whole data set), and a detection threshold of $TS = 9$. Since the source is a confirmed γ -ray emitter, we relaxed the statistical requirements for valid detections that have been adopted in recent works (e.g. Foschini et al. 2011a,b). Due to its scanning mode, *Fermi* monitors any source in the sky almost continuously.

Sometimes, PMN J0948+0022 was not detected on a daily time scale, but for clarity we do not plot upper limits. The $TS = 4$ average upper limit for one-day exposure ($\sim 2.3 \times 10^{-7} \text{ ph cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$, by fixing $\Gamma = 2.67$) is indicated in Figs. 3 (top panel) and A.1 (top left-hand panel) with a horizontal dotted line.

2.2. Swift

The data of PMN J0948+0022 from the three *Swift* instruments, the Burst Alert Telescope (BAT, Barthelmy et al. 2005), the X-Ray Telescope (XRT, Burrows et al. 2005), and the UltraViolet Optical Telescope (UVOT, Roming et al. 2005) were downloaded from the HEASARC archive and analysed with the *Swift* tools included in the HEASoft v. 6.12 package⁵, together with the CALDB updated on 2012 March 22.

Swift observed the source for the first time on 2008 December 5, soon after the discovery of the γ -ray emission (Abdo et al. 2009a). During the 2009 MW campaign, there were 11 snapshots (Abdo et al. 2009b) and one a few days before the outburst of 2010 July (Foschini et al. 2011a). Ten more exposures were performed in 2011, as part of a monitoring program linked to the Effelsberg radio observations. In total, there were 23 observations with XRT exposures from 1 to 5 ks each from 2008–2011.

All the available pointed BAT observations were combined to search for a possible detection. In total, ~ 86 ks of data were accumulated, but no detection was made. The upper limits at 99.97% confidence level were $1.7 \times 10^{-10} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ in the 20–40 keV energy band and $2.3 \times 10^{-10} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ in the 40–100 keV band. Cusumano et al. (2010) reported a detection by integrating 54 months of BAT data (thus also including the *Swift* observations when PMN J0948+0022 was not on axis, but still within the BAT field of view) with a flux of $(1.2 \pm 0.8) \times 10^{-11} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ in the 10–150 keV energy band⁶. Despite the large error, the flux seems to be consistent with what is expected from the modelling of the spectral energy distribution (SED, see Sect. 4, Fig. 4).

The XRT was set to work in photon-counting mode (Hill et al. 2004), and we analysed all the single-to-quadruple events (grades 0–12). The extracted spectra were rebinned to have at least 20 counts per bin to apply the χ^2 statistics. When this was not possible, we evaluated the likelihood using Cash statistics (Cash 1979). The data were fitted with a redshifted power-law model with Galactic absorption ($N_H = 5.23 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$, Kalberla et al. 2005). The individual snapshot does not show significant spectral changes as a function of the emitted power, but the statistics are not sufficient to test if more complex models can be employed (Fig. 2). When all the X-ray data are integrated (the resulting global exposure is 81.6 ks), the spectrum is best fitted ($\chi^2 = 241.66$, d.o.f. = 200) with $\Gamma = 1.67 \pm 0.03$ and normalisation at 1 keV is equal to $(1.50 \pm 0.05) \times 10^{-3} \text{ ph cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1} \text{keV}^{-1}$. The integrated observed flux in the 0.3–10 keV band is $(4.5 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-12} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$. The modelling of the integrated spectrum can be improved ($\chi^2 = 210.54$, d.o.f. = 198, F-test > 99.99%) by adopting a broken power-law model with the following parameters: $\Gamma_1 = 1.91 \pm 0.10$, $\Gamma_2 = 1.56^{+0.05}_{-0.07}$, $E_{\text{break}} = 1.22^{+0.51}_{-0.19} \text{ keV}$, and normalisation $(6.7 \pm 0.3) \times 10^{-4} \text{ ph cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1} \text{keV}^{-1}$ at 1 keV.

⁵ Including the XRT Data Analysis Software (XRTDAS) developed under the responsibility of the ASI Science Data Center (ASDC), Italy.

⁶ The 58-month survey by Baumgartner et al. does not report this detection. See:

<http://swift.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/swift/results/bs58mon/>

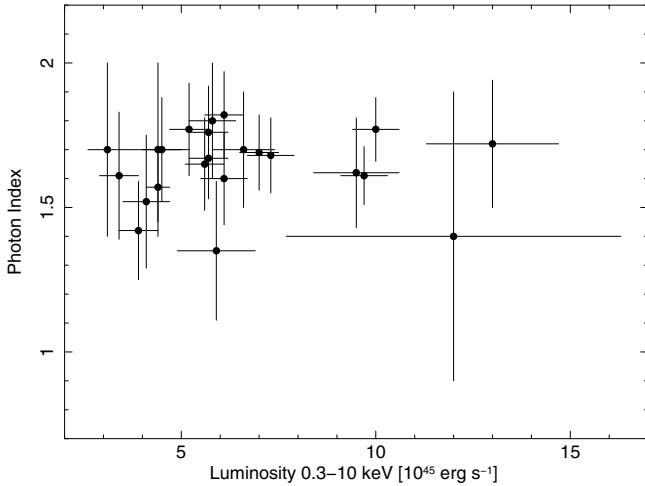


Fig. 2. X-ray power-law model photon index plotted as a function of the 0.3–10 keV luminosity. No obvious luminosity dependent spectral changes are seen.

It is also possible to model the spectrum by using log-parabolic models (`logpar` in the `xspec` syntax), which have been applied to blazars, specifically to high-frequency-peaked BL Lac objects (e.g. Massaro et al. 2004; Foschini et al. 2007). The best-fit parameters are $\alpha = 1.79 \pm 0.04$ and $\beta = -0.27 \pm 0.04$, with the pivot energy fixed at 1 keV. The χ^2 test resulted in a value of 210.34 for 199 degrees of freedom, which in turn translates into a *F-test* better than 99.99% with respect to the single power-law model. A variant of the above model, `eplogpar` in `xspec` (see Tramacere et al. 2007), resulted in similar values for the χ^2 and *F-test* ($\chi^2 = 210.46$, d.o.f. = 199, *F-test* > 99.99%) and the following model parameters: the peak energy in νF_ν is 2.4 ± 0.2 keV and the curvature $\beta = -0.28 \pm 0.09$. In both cases, the improvement with respect to the single power-law model is significant, but there is no preference with respect to the broken power-law model. Basically, the spectrum indicates a change in the slope around 1–2 keV, with the high-energy photon index harder than that at lower energies.

The UVOT data were taken with all six filters (*V*, *B*, *U*, *UVW1*, *UVM2*, *UVW2*) for most of the observations. They were analysed by extracting the source counts from a 5''-sized region and the background from a source-free annulus centred on the source, and with internal and external dimensions of 7'' and 40'', respectively. The observed magnitudes were dereddened by using $A_V = 0.28$ and the extinction laws by Cardelli et al. (1989). The intrinsic magnitudes were then converted to physical units by using the zero points and conversion factors of the *Swift* CALDB (Poole et al. 2008; Breeveld et al. 2010).

2.3. Instituto Nacional de Astrofísica, Óptica y Electrónica

PMN J0948+0022 was observed at near-infrared (NIR) wavelengths at the 2.1 m telescope “Guillermo Haro” (Cananea, Sonora, Mexico) of the Instituto Nacional de Astrofísica, Óptica y Electrónica (INAOE). The NIR camera “CANICA” has a Rockwell 1024 × 1024 pixel Hawaii infrared array (0.32 arcsec/pix), operating at 75.4 K with standard *J* (1.164–1.328 μm), *H* (1.485–1.781 μm), and *K_s* (1.944–2.294 μm) filters in place. Observations were carried out in series of 10 dithered frames in each filter, with a proper number of additional observations for the *K_s* filter. Data sets were corrected for bias and flat-fielding, the latter obtained from sky frames derived from the dithered ones and coadded.

2.4. Effelsberg and IRAM

The cm/mm radio light curves of PMN J0948+0022 were obtained within the frameworks of both a *Fermi*-related monitoring program of γ -ray blazars (F-GAMMA program, Fuhrmann et al. 2007; Angelakis et al. 2008) and a dedicated NLS1 monitoring program. The millimetre observations are closely coordinated with the more general flux density monitoring conducted by Instituto de Radioastronomía Milimétrica (IRAM), and data from both programs are included in this paper. The overall frequency range spans from 2.64 GHz to 142 GHz using the Effelsberg 100 m and IRAM 30 m (at Pico Veleta) telescopes.

The Effelsberg measurements were conducted with the secondary focus heterodyne receivers at 2.64, 4.85, 8.35, 10.45, 14.60, 23.05, 32.00, and 43.00 GHz. The observations were performed quasi-simultaneously with cross-scans, that is, slewing over the source position, in azimuth and elevation direction with adaptive numbers of sub-scans for reaching the desired sensitivity (for details, see Fuhrmann et al. 2008; Angelakis et al. 2008). Consequently, pointing off-set correction, gain correction, atmospheric opacity correction, and sensitivity correction were applied to the data.

The IRAM 30 m observations were carried out with calibrated cross-scans using the ABCD SIS (until March 2009) and new EMIR horizontal and vertical polarisation receivers operating at 86.2 and 142.3 GHz. The opacity-corrected intensities were converted into the standard temperature scale and finally corrected for small remaining pointing offsets and systematic gain-elevation effects. The conversion to the standard flux density scale was done using the instantaneous conversion factors derived from frequently observed primary (Mars, Uranus) and secondary (W3(OH), K3-50A, NGC 7027) calibrators.

The complete data set was published in Angelakis et al. (2012), together with data of other NLS1s. The brightness temperature of PMN J0948+0022 was measured as 8×10^{12} K at 4.85 GHz, 2×10^{12} K at 14.6 GHz, and 1.5×10^{11} K at 32 GHz, which can be translated into requirements of Doppler factors greater than 6, 4, and 2, respectively (Angelakis et al. 2012).

2.5. Metsähovi

The Metsähovi radio telescope is a radome-enclosed paraboloid antenna (13.7 m) situated in Finland and operating at 37 GHz. The detection limit (signal-to-noise ratio >4) of the telescope at 37 GHz is of the order of 0.2 Jy under optimal conditions and with a typical integration time of 1200–1400 s. The flux density scale was set by observations of DR 21, while 3C 84, 3C 274, and NGC 7027 were used as secondary calibrators. More details about data reduction and analysis can be found in Teräsranta et al. (1998). The error in the flux density takes into account the background and the absolute calibration.

2.6. Owens Valley Radio Observatory

Regular 15 GHz observations of PMN J0948+0022 were carried out as part of a high-cadence γ -ray blazar monitoring program using the OVRO 40 m telescope (Richards et al. 2011). This program, which commenced in late 2007, now includes about 1600 sources, each observed with a nominal twice per week cadence.

The OVRO 40 m uses off-axis dual-beam optics and a cryogenic high-electron mobility transistor (HEMT) low-noise amplifier with a 15.0 GHz center frequency and 3 GHz bandwidth.

Table 1. VLBA observations performed within the MOJAVE project.

Date	Intensity [mJy]	Polarisation [%]	EVPA [deg]
2009 May 28	384	0.7	131
2009 Jul. 23	462	1.2	146
2009 Dec. 10	675	0.5	–
2010 Sep. 17	669	3.7	51
2010 Nov. 04	627	1.8	49
2010 Nov. 29	486	1.6	49
2011 Feb. 20	498	1.0	19
2011 May 26	540	1.8	49
2011 Jun. 24	389	2.1	51
2011 Sep. 12	343	1.3	40
2011 Dec. 12	439	0.8	77

The total system noise temperature is about 52 K, including receiver, atmosphere, ground, and cosmic microwave background (CMB) contributions. The two sky beams are Dicke switched using the off-source beam as a reference, and the source is alternated between the two beams in an ON-ON fashion to remove atmospheric and ground contamination. A noise level of approximately 3–4 mJy in quadrature with about 2% additional uncertainty, mostly due to pointing errors, is achieved in a 70 s integration period. Calibration is achieved using a temperature-stable diode noise source to remove receiver gain drifts, and the flux density scale is derived from observations of 3C 286 assuming the Baars et al. (1977) value of 3.44 Jy at 15.0 GHz. The systematic uncertainty of about 5% in the flux density scale is not included in the error bars. Complete details of the reduction and calibration procedure are found in Richards et al. (2011).

2.7. VLBA 2 cm (MOJAVE Program)

The MOJAVE Program (Monitoring Of Jets in Active galactic nuclei with VLBA Experiments, Lister et al. 2009) is a high-resolution high-dynamic range (about 8000:1) survey at 15.4 GHz performed with the Very Large Baseline Array (VLBA). It counts about 300 AGN in the northern hemisphere, which are observed on a roughly regular basis. Presently, the program includes four radio-loud NLS1s detected at γ -rays (J0324+3410, J0849+5108, J0948+0022, J1505+0326). Specifically, PMN J0948+0022 has been observed 11 times between 2009 May 28 and 2011 December 12 (Table 1). Details of data processing are available in Lister et al. (2009) and Lister & Homan (2005). The analysis of the 2009 and part of 2010 data resulted in a brightness temperature of the core in excess of 6×10^{12} K, a jet apparent opening angle of 21° , a jet position angle of 24° , an average fractional polarisation of 0.8%, and an average electric vector position angle (EVPA) of 142° (Lister et al. 2011). There is negligible difference between the single dish (OVRO) and MOJAVE (VLBA) 2 cm flux densities at all epochs, indicating no bright arcsec scale radio structure (Lister et al. 2011).

The three initial epochs⁷ showed two moving features, but these faded rapidly and thus their measured speeds cannot be considered reliable.

2.8. Medicina

We observed PMN 0948+0022 with the 32 m Medicina radio telescope eight times between 2011 June and November, at a

frequency of 5 and/or 8.4 GHz. At each epoch and frequency, we performed ~ 10 cross scans on the source using the new enhanced single-dish control system (ESCS) acquisition system. The typical on source integrated time is ~ 1 min per band. Since the signal-to-noise ratio in each scan across the source was low (typically ~ 3), we performed a stacking analysis of the scans, which allowed us to significantly improve the signal-to-noise ratio and the accuracy of the measurement. Finally, we calibrated the flux density with respect to simultaneous observations of 3C 286.

2.9. Sloan Digital Sky Survey

We also reanalysed the non-contemporaneous data of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS). The images were taken in 1999 March and the spectrum (covering 3800–9200 Å, or rest-frame 2400–5600 Å) in 2000 March. The host galaxy is unresolved in the SDSS images, which is not surprising, given its redshift ($z = 0.5846$). The spectrum shows evidence for a young stellar population, in addition to the nuclear source (Hamilton & Foschini 2012). High-resolution observations (e.g. with *Hubble* Space Telescope) are required to study the morphology of the host galaxy.

3. Overview of the data

All the data available for the present study are displayed in the figures of Appendix A, while a sub-sample with the most representative light curves is shown in Fig. 3. The period covered is from 2008 August 1 to 2011 December 31. Both samples clearly show a high degree of activity in PMN J0948+0022 at all wavelengths. The most complete coverage is at γ -rays with *Fermi*/LAT (daily), and at 15 GHz with OVRO (twice per week), plus contributions from Effelsberg (once per month) and the MOJAVE Program (Table 1). At the other wavelengths, the data are basically clustered around two main MW campaigns organised in 2009 (Abdo et al. 2009b) and 2011 (new data).

3.1. 2008

As already published in Abdo et al. (2009a), radio observations at OVRO (15 GHz) before the launch of *Fermi* indicated a strong radio emission with a peak of 0.81 Jy on 2008 Jan. 9 (MJD 54 474). At the start of the scientific operations of the LAT onboard *Fermi*, PMN J0948+0022 was detected at a level of a few $\times 10^{-7}$ ph cm⁻² s⁻¹, making it the first NLS1 detected at high-energy γ -rays (Abdo et al. 2009a; Foschini et al. 2010).

3.2. 2009

We confirm the findings of the 2009 MW Campaign, performed between 2009 Mar. 20 and Jul. 5 (Abdo et al. 2009b). The source displayed some activity at γ -rays in April, with the most significant (i.e. with greatest TS) peak detected on April 1 (MJD 54 922; day 243 in Fig. 3) with a flux of $(4.2 \pm 1.5) \times 10^{-7}$ ph cm⁻² s⁻¹ in the 0.1–100 GeV energy band with a photon index $\Gamma = 2.1 \pm 0.2$ ($TS = 43$). Other detections on daily basis were recorded by *Fermi*/LAT during almost the whole month, with fluxes of a few times 10^{-7} ph cm⁻² s⁻¹ (0.1–100 GeV). The NIR observations at INAOE showed a relatively bright state, with observed magnitudes $J = 15.87 \pm 0.05$, $H = 14.90 \pm 0.07$, $K_s = 13.99 \pm 0.09$, while optical-polarimetric observations

⁷ Images with animations can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/mojave0948p0022>

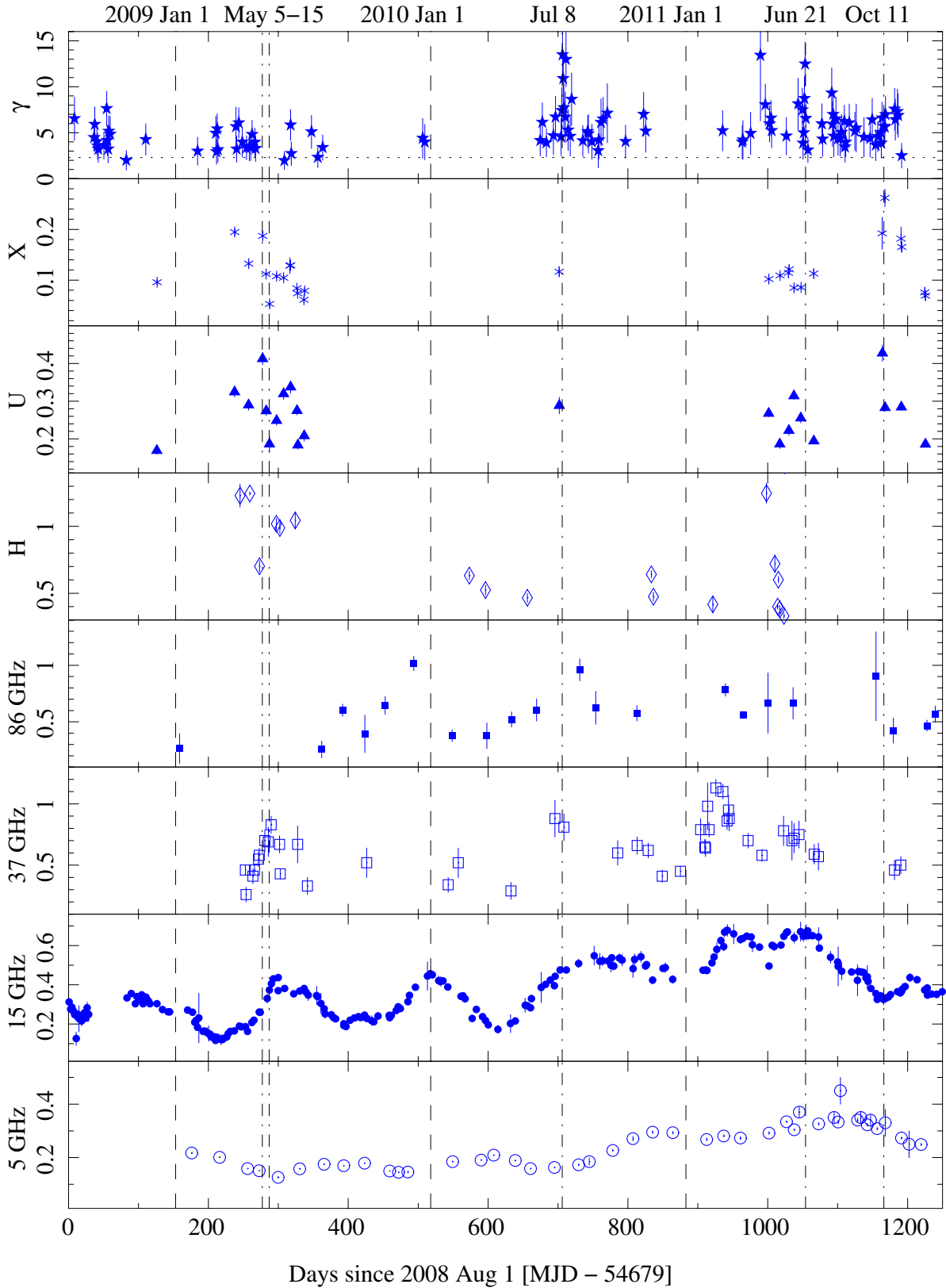


Fig. 3. Light curves at various frequencies. *From top to bottom:* γ -rays 0.1–100 GeV from *Fermi*/LAT with 1 day time bin [10^{-7} ph cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$]; X-ray 0.3–10 keV from *Swift*/XRT [c s $^{-1}$]; *U* filter (350 nm) from *Swift*/UVOT [mJy]; *H* filter (1.65 μ m) from INAOE [mJy]; 86 GHz from IRAM [Jy]; 37 GHz from Metsähovi [Jy]; 15 GHz from OVRO, Effelsberg, and MOJAVE [Jy]; 5 GHz from Effelsberg and Medicina. Time starts on 2008 August 1 00:00 UTC (MJD 54 679). *Fermi* performs an all-sky survey every two orbits (three hours) and thus observed PMN J0948+0022 almost continuously. However, for clarity, we do not plot the upper limits. The $TS = 4$ average sensitivity of LAT for one-day exposure is indicated with the horizontal dotted line in the *top panel*, which corresponds to $\sim 2.3 \times 10^{-7}$ ph cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$ (assuming $\Gamma = 2.67$). Vertical dashed lines are shown at the beginning of each year (Jan. 1). Vertical dot-dashed lines indicate the days referring to the SED selected as example (see Sect. 4).

(*V* filter) performed in the period 2009 Mar. 30–Apr. 10 at the KANATA telescope resulted in a 19% polarisation fraction (Ikejiri et al. 2011).

Radio observations in 2009 April reported low-flux densities of the order of ~ 0.2 Jy at 15 GHz (see Fig. 3), but increasing and peaking in mid-end May. At 15 GHz, with the densest sampling, the peak of 0.43 Jy was measured on 2009 May 21 (MJD 54 972, day 293 in figures), that is, 50 days after the γ -ray peak. Metsähovi (37 GHz) reported 0.83 Jy on the evening of 2009 May 17 (MJD 54 968.72, day ~ 290). Instead, on 2009 May 27 (MJD 54 978.77 or day ~ 300), Effelsberg measured flux densities reaching 0.269 Jy at 10.45 GHz and 0.189 Jy at 8.35 GHz (Fig. A.3).

The *Swift* optical-to-X-ray monitoring was much more coarsely sampled. However, two observations performed on 2009 May 5 and 15 show a drop in the 0.3–10 keV flux from $(7.5 \pm 0.3) \times 10^{-12}$ erg cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$ to $(2.1 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{-12}$ erg cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$, corresponding to an intrinsic (i.e. redshift corrected) halving time scale of 3.4 ± 0.7 day. At the same time, the UVOT spectrum exhibited a slope change. Over a five-day period centred on 2009 May 5, when the γ -ray flux was at level of $(2.2 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{-7}$ ph cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$ ($TS = 10$), the optical/UV spectrum was rather flat. Ten days later, the γ -ray flux fell below the LAT detectability ($< 8 \times 10^{-8}$ ph cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$, upper limit at $TS = 4$ with 5 days integration). At the same time, a flux density drop of ~ 2.8 was seen in optical filters, whereas the flux density decreased by only ~ 1.8 in the UV. Interestingly, the *H* filter detected a flux density drop on 2009 May 1 (MJD 54 952, day 273), prior to the optical-to-X-ray fluxes. The NIR flux density had decreased by roughly a factor two since the measurements performed in 2009 April.

The source ceased detectable γ -ray activity from 2009 August to about 2010 June, with the exception of a couple of detections in 2009 mid-December. There was no information on optical-to-X-rays, but the flux density at radio frequencies was high, measured at 86 GHz (IRAM, more than 1 Jy on 2009 Dec. 7) and at 15 GHz (0.46 Jy on 2009 Dec. 31). Interestingly, the VLBA 2 cm observation performed on 2009 Dec. 10 (MOJAVE) resulted in the lowest polarisation fraction ever measured (0.5%, Table 1). It was not possible to measure the EVPA in that epoch, but the following observation performed on 2010 Sep. 17 revealed that it had changed significantly, rotating by about 90° , from 146° on 2009 Jul. 23 to 51° (Table 1).

3.3. 2010

Then, on 2010 July 8 (day 706), PMN J0948+0022 exploded in its first known γ -ray outburst, with isotropic luminosity at γ -rays in excess of 10^{48} erg s $^{-1}$, comparable with powerful quasars (Donato et al. 2010; Foschini 2010; Foschini et al. 2011a,b). At that time, it was not possible to set up an efficient campaign because of the apparent close position of the Sun, but the data available show a relatively high level of optical-to-X-ray fluxes. Measurements at radio frequencies show an increasing flux density that reached its peak at 15 GHz about 46 days after the first γ -ray outburst (0.55 Jy on 2010 Aug. 22, day 752) and remained almost constant at this level for about 100 days. On 2010 Sep. 17 (day 777), the VLBA 2 cm observation reported the highest fractional polarisation measured to date at this wavelength (3.7%, Table 1). The flux density at 37 GHz had a local maximum on June 27 (0.88 Jy, day 695) and July 10 (0.81 Jy, day 708). The next measurement was only on Sep. 2 with 0.5 Jy (day 762). The 86 GHz flux density was again at ~ 1 Jy level on Aug. 2 (day 731).

3.4. 2011

The year 2011 data are characterised by a prolonged activity both at γ -ray and radio frequencies. Specifically, Effelsberg and Medicina reported a 5 GHz flux density that was almost double the values seen in 2008–2009. Starting 2011 Feb. 1 (day 914), Metsähovi (37 GHz) registered a flux density increase, reaching the maximum value of the period, with a value of 1.13 Jy on 2011 Feb. 13 (day 926). During this period, there was a further increase in the 15 GHz flux density at a level of ~ 0.6 Jy. Instead, the activity at γ -rays was sparse and of the order of a few times 10^{-7} ph cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$. On April 26 (day 998), NIR observations indicated a high level (~ 1.2 mJy) that dropped by a factor three within a couple of weeks. About ten days earlier (day 989), there had been some high-level activity at γ -rays with $F_{0.1-100 \text{ GeV}} = (1.3 \pm 0.7) \times 10^{-6}$ ph cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$.

In the optical, the U flux density increased up to 0.3 mJy (day 1037, Jun. 4) and then decreased again. On Jun. 13 (day 1046), the 15 GHz flux density reached the local maximum of ~ 0.7 Jy. A few days later, on Jun. 20 (day 1053), the source erupted in another strong γ -ray outburst ($L_\gamma \sim 10^{48}$ erg s $^{-1}$). This event was reported by the *AGILE* satellite (Lucarelli et al. 2011). Another γ -ray outburst at a level of $\sim 10^{-6}$ ph cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$ occurred on Jul. 28 (day 1091).

An interesting event occurred on October 9–12 (days 1164–1167). *Swift* observed the highest optical/X-ray fluxes ever recorded ($F_{0.3-10 \text{ keV}} \sim 1.0 \times 10^{-11}$ erg cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$; $F_U \sim 0.43$ mJy), but with no corresponding high activity at γ -rays (“orphan flare”). High-flux density was recorded by IRAM at 86 GHz as well, while there was a decreasing trend at lower frequencies (37 and 15 GHz). VLBA 2 cm observations at the end of 2011 indicated a decrease of the polarisation and some hint for another swing in the EVPA.

3.5. Time variability

To obtain an estimate of the shortest observed variability in each band, we follow the method applied in, e.g., Foschini et al. (2011c). We calculated the observed time scale τ for doubling/halving flux according to the formula

$$F(t) = F(t_0) \cdot 2^{-(t-t_0)/\tau}, \quad (2)$$

where $F(t)$ and $F(t_0)$ are the fluxes at the times t and t_0 , respectively, of two adjacent points. Although it is more common to find in the literature the time scale for an exponential flux change (e.g. Scargle 1981; Abdo et al. 2010c), we prefer to adopt the doubling/halving τ because of the large error bars in the γ -ray curve. The error in the evaluation of τ was calculated according to the bootstrap method, assuming the worst case (τ_{max}) calculated by using the smallest flux difference and the longest time interval. The results are displayed in Table 2 and include the shortest τ and also the flux ratio measured between the maximum and minimum of the selected curve. The τ displayed is the observed value. The intrinsic characteristic time scale can be obtained by dividing τ by $(1 + z)$.

We note some peculiar variations in our estimates in Table 2, for example, the wide variation between neighbouring frequencies at 37 GHz and 32 GHz. While such sensitivity of variability rates with frequency would be quite interesting, it is likely that this is an artifact of the unequal sampling. Effelsberg almost regularly sampled the source with one-month cadence. Curves with more irregular sampling (e.g. 37 GHz), however made it possible to also find shorter variability (~ 2 days), depending on the

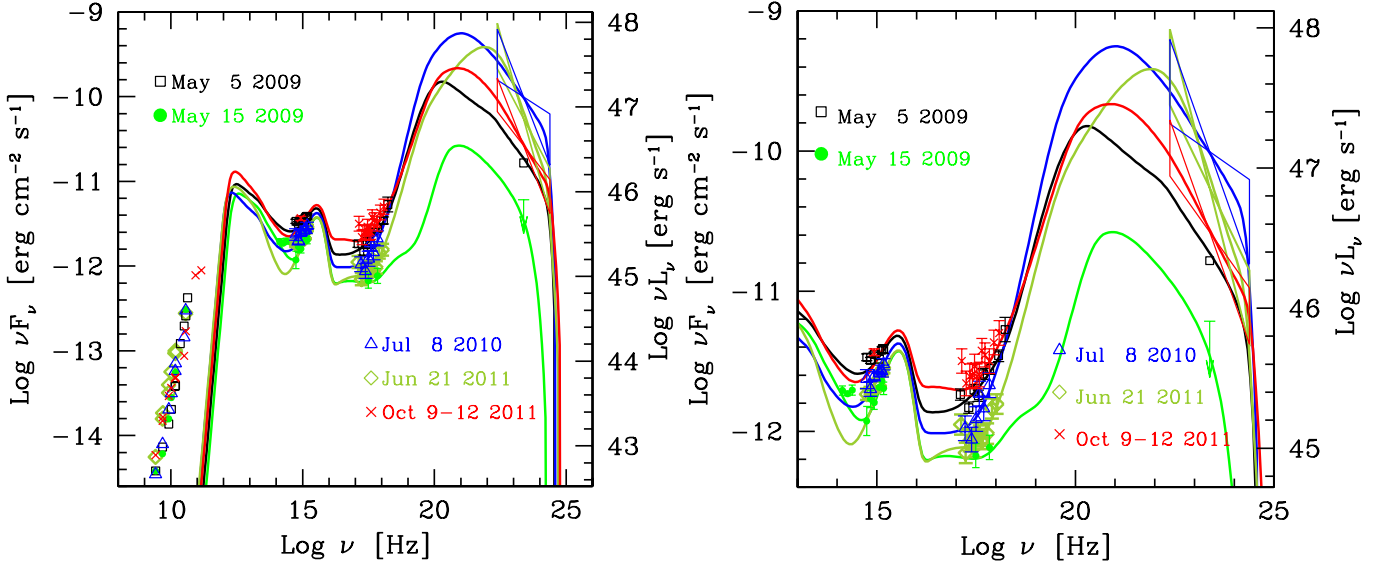


Fig. 4. (Left panel) SEDs of PMN J0948+0022 in some specific time periods. (Right panel) Zoom of the infrared-to- γ -ray energy range. Each period is indicated with different symbols and colours, as displayed in the figures. Since we adopted a one-zone model, radio data were not fitted. The bow-ties at γ -rays indicate only the changes in the photon index that are most relevant for the modelling. It is necessary to take into account that the flux normalisation also has an error, although not displayed. See the text for details.

Table 2. Variability at different wavelengths.

Band/filter/frequency	τ	σ	F_{\max}/F_{\min}
0.1–100 GeV	2.3 ± 0.5	4.1	9.5
0.3–10 keV	6.7 ± 1.9	4.9	4.9
UVW2	5.2 ± 2.8	5.9	1.9
UVM2	<14	3.9	1.9
UVW1	5.6 ± 5.0	4.2	1.8
U	3.0 ± 1.1	7.9	2.5
B	2.4 ± 0.8	8.0	2.1
V	2.5 ± 2.1	4.3	2.9
J	20 ± 8	5.5	2.8
H	4.5 ± 1.5	7.4	4.6
K	30 ± 3	20.0	2.8
142 GHz	59 ± 11	8.8	5.9
86 GHz	55 ± 14	10.0	4.0
43 GHz	236 ± 46	13.1	2.2
37 GHz	2.2 ± 1.8	3.4	4.3
32 GHz	83 ± 23	3.7	4.4
23 GHz	<244	3.3	2.5
15 GHz	<6	3.6	5.8
10.45 GHz	83 ± 6	24.8	3.5
8.4 GHz	40 ± 22	3.8	3.1
5 GHz	117 ± 42	7.5	3.6
2.64 GHz	179 ± 20	20.0	1.9

Notes. Column (1): band/filter/frequency of the data; Col. (2): observed characteristic time scale for doubling/halving the flux [day] calculated over two consecutive points; Col. (3): significance of the flux variation (σ); Col. (4): maximum flux ratio measured over the whole light curve.

clustering of observations around specific events. The most reliable results are those at γ -rays and at 15 GHz, which are also the curves most densely sampled. In these cases, it is possible to find variability on a time scale of a few days. The detection of such a day-scale variability at radio frequencies is intriguing, but not extraordinary, since it was already detected in other blazars (cf. Wagner & Witzel 1995).

The γ -rays show the most extreme flux variations with a time scale of a few days. However, during outbursts, when the

statistics are sufficient to perform an analysis with shorter time bins, it is possible to find intraday variability (Foschini et al. 2011a). The relativistic jets of blazars are known to display similar time scales (cf. Abdo et al. 2010c), and during outbursts it is possible to measure variability on time scales of hours (Foschini et al. 2011c). The lowest flux changes are in the UV, which is expected to be dominated by radiation from the accretion disc as in the quasar subclass of blazars (cf. Bonning et al. 2012), and at 2.64 GHz, which should refer to the largest spatial scales. Flux changes by factors 5–6 occur at X-rays, infrared H filter, 142 GHz, and 15 GHz. To summarize, the observed variability (amplitude and time scale), taking into account the bias of the sparse sampling, is consistent with that displayed by flat-spectrum radio quasars.

4. Spectral energy distribution modelling

We selected some specific cases for which we had sufficient data to represent the behaviour of PMN J0948+0022. The availability of X-ray observations were an important factor in our selection; as shown in Fig. 4, the peak of the synchrotron emission cannot be determined accurately because of the synchrotron self-absorption. The X-ray emission is assumed to be due to the synchrotron self-Compton process; in this case, X-ray observations are required to estimate the magnetic field strength for modelling purposes. Therefore, even if the light curves (Fig. 3) indicated the presence of several interesting features, it was possible to properly model the corresponding SEDs only if an X-ray observation had been done within a few days.

The selected time periods are (see Fig. 3):

- 2009 May 5: early decrease of the optical-to-X-ray flux during the 2009 MW Campaign (*Fermi*/LAT data integrated over a time period of five days centred on the *Swift* observation; data at other wavelengths at the closest time);
- 2009 May 15: lowest X-ray flux recorded during the 2009 MW Campaign and of the whole ~ 3.5 years (*Fermi*/LAT data integrated over a time period of five days centred on the *Swift* observation; data at other wavelengths at the closest time);

Table 3. Input parameters used to model the SED.

Date [1]	R_{diss} [2]	R_{diss}/R_S [3]	P'_1 [4]	B [5]	Γ [6]	γ_b [7]	γ_{max} [8]	s_1 [9]	s_2 [10]
2009 May 05	67.5	1500	0.030	4.4	13	10	3000	0	2.65
2009 May 15	49.5	1100	0.0055	6.0	11	50	1500	0	2.7
2010 Jul. 08	103.5	2300	0.044	2.1	16	50	3000	0	2.8
2011 Jun. 21	108.0	2400	0.025	2.2	16	240	4000	0.5	3.9
2011 Oct. 09	90.0	2000	0.032	3.3	12	80	5000	1	3.05

Notes. Column [1]: date; Col. [2]: distance of the blob from the black hole in units of 10^{15} cm; Col. [3]: R_{diss} in units of the Schwarzschild radius R_S ; Col. [4]: power injected in the blob calculated in the comoving frame, in units of 10^{45} erg s^{-1} ; Col. [5]: magnetic field in Gauss; Col. [6]: bulk Lorentz factor; Col. [7]: random Lorentz factor of the injected electrons at the break of the distribution; Col. [8]: maximum random Lorentz factor of the injected electrons; Cols. [9] and [10]: slopes of the injected electron distribution [$Q(\gamma)$] below and above γ_b . All models assume a black hole mass $M = 1.5 \times 10^8 M_\odot$ and an accretion disc luminosity $L_d = 9 \times 10^{45}$ erg s^{-1} , corresponding to $L_d/L_{\text{Edd}} = 0.4$. The X-ray corona has a luminosity $L_X = 0.3L_d$. The radius of the BLR is fixed to $R_{\text{BLR}} = 3 \times 10^{17}$ cm. The spectral shape of the corona is assumed to be $\propto \nu^{-1} \exp(-h\nu/150 \text{ keV})$. The viewing angle is 3° for all models.

- 2010 July 8: first γ -ray outburst (*Fermi*/LAT data integrated over one day; *Swift* observation on July 3; data at other wavelengths at the closest time);
- 2011 June 21: second γ -ray outburst (*Fermi*/LAT data integrated over one day; *Swift* observation on June 14; data at other wavelengths at the closest time);
- 2011 October 9–12: maximum optical-to-X-ray flux (*Fermi*/LAT data integrated over a time period of five days centred on October 11; two *Swift* observations on October 9 and 12 integrated; data at other wavelengths at the closest time).

The corresponding SEDs and models are displayed in Fig. 4. It is worth noting that the data are not strictly simultaneous. As written above, the zero-order rule was to use the *Swift* observation as the main driver, but obviously there were major events (e.g. the γ -ray outbursts) that cannot be ignored. When possible, we used the closest (within one week) *Swift* pointing, which was on 2010 July 3 for the 2010 outburst (i.e. five days before) and on 2011 June 14 for the 2011 outburst (i.e. seven days before). In 2011 there were other outbursts at γ -rays (2011 July 28, day 1091; 2011 September 25, day 1150), but no timely *Swift* observations were available.

We adopted the same model used in past MW campaigns (Abdo et al. 2009b; Foschini et al. 2011), which is that developed by Ghisellini & Tavecchio (2009). It is a one-zone model, which calculates the emitted radiation from a population of relativistic electrons through synchrotron self-Compton and external Compton (EC) processes. In the latter, the seed photons are considered from different sources (accretion disc, broad-line region, infrared torus, etc.). We refer to Ghisellini & Tavecchio (2009) for more details on the model and to Abdo et al. (2009b) and Foschini et al. (2011) for the specific application to the 2009 and 2010 MW campaigns on PMN J0948+0022, respectively, with specific reference to the possible changes in the model parameters as a function of the data.

The input parameters (see Table 3) were adjusted to fit the data, and the model output consists of the calculated jet power divided into its basic components (radiative and kinetic, see Table 4). Given the large number of parameters, we fixed some of them by taking into account the available measured quantities. The mass of the central black hole is $M \sim 1.5 \times 10^8 M_\odot$, as derived from the fit to the accretion disc emission (Abdo et al. 2009a), which is consistent with the black hole mass estimate by Zhou et al. (2003) using the classical virial method. The accretion disc luminosity is measured as $L_d \sim 9 \times 10^{45}$ erg s^{-1} , corresponding to $L_d/L_{\text{Edd}} \sim 0.4$. The value has been measured

Table 4. Calculated jet power in the form of radiation, Poynting flux, bulk motion of electrons and protons (assuming one cold proton per emitting electron).

Date	$\log P_r$	$\log P_B$	$\log P_e$	$\log P_p$
2009 May 05	45.31	44.75	45.23	47.49
2009 May 15	44.55	44.59	44.33	46.17
2010 Jul. 08	45.97	44.67	45.43	47.61
2011 Jun. 21	45.76	44.47	44.98	47.10
2011 Oct. 09	45.47	44.68	45.20	47.46

Notes. The logarithms are calculated on the powers expressed in erg s^{-1} .

during the period of minimum jet flux and fixed on short time scales, although it can change over the years.

The jet viewing angle is fixed to $\sim 3^\circ$ for all SEDs. In earlier work, we adopted a value of 6° (Abdo et al. 2009a,b), but modelling of the 2010 July outburst required a smaller viewing angle to explain the observed γ -ray isotropic luminosity (Foschini et al. 2011). The smaller jet angle generates slightly different parameter values compared to Abdo et al. (2009b), but does not significantly change the interpretation.

In addition, fixing the above parameters has some implications on the other parameters. For example, as known from the reverberation mapping, the radius of the broad-line region is a function of the accretion disc luminosity (see Eq. (2) in Ghisellini & Tavecchio 2009). The values of the fitted parameters are presented in Table 3, and the calculated output jet powers are shown in Table 4.

The modelled SEDs can be interpreted by looking at the most relevant changes in the parameters. The drop in γ -ray emission in early 2009 May can be basically explained with a decrease in the injected power (from 3×10^{43} erg s^{-1} to 5.5×10^{42} erg s^{-1}), an increase of the magnetic field (from 4.4 to 6.0 G), and a decrease of the bulk Lorentz factor (from 13 to 11). The slope of the electron distribution remained almost constant. On the other hand, the 2010 July outburst requires a high injected power (4.4×10^{43} erg s^{-1}) and also a higher bulk Lorentz factor ($\Gamma = 16$), together with a smaller magnetic field (2.1 G). The 2011 June outburst, although with similar magnetic field and Lorentz factor (2.2 G and 16, respectively), requires less injected power (2.5×10^{43} erg s^{-1}), but a softer electron distribution. Indeed, as noted in Sect. 2.1, the LAT spectrum showed in 2011 softening in the slope.

A comparison of the values obtained by the SED modeling of PMN J0948+0022 (Tables 3 and 4) with those of a large sample of bright blazars (Ghisellini et al. 2010) shows that the jet powers

are in the range of flat-spectrum radio quasars, although there are some differences in the input parameters. The average mass and accretion luminosity of quasars in the sample of Ghisellini et al. (2010) are $\sim 10^9 M_\odot$ and $\sim 0.1 L_{\text{Edd}}$, respectively, compared with the values of PMN J0948+0022 ($M \sim 10^8 M_\odot$, $L_d \sim 0.4 L_{\text{Edd}}$). However, it is possible to find quasars with similar characteristics, like PKS 0426–380 ($z = 1.112$), which has $M \sim 4 \times 10^8 M_\odot$ and $L_d \sim 0.6 L_{\text{Edd}}$. The input and output parameters of the model (see Tables 4 and 5 in Ghisellini et al. 2010) are very similar to those presented here.

5. Conclusions

The most likely physical interpretation for the observed data is that the NLS1 galaxy PMN J0948+0022 hosts a powerful relativistic jet directed, within a few degrees, towards the Earth, confirming previous works. Zhou et al. (2003) and Doi et al. (2006), having found an inverted radio spectrum with high brightness temperature in excess of 10^{13} K, suggested that the NLS1 galaxy should host a relativistic jet. However, there are some caveats in inferring the presence of a relativistic jet from the high-brightness temperature, as outlined, for example, by Tsang & Kirk (2007) and Singal (2009). A halo of doubt remained, particularly because it was anomalous and strange that a NLS1 type AGN, which is generally radio quiet, hosted a relativistic jet.

The detection of variable high-energy γ -ray emission from PMN J0948+0022 with *Fermi*/LAT (Abdo et al. 2009a, Foschini et al. 2010) provided the needed breakthrough. Specifically, the 2009 MW campaign, which found coordinated MW variability, confirmed beyond any doubt the association of the high-energy γ -ray source with the NLS1 (Abdo et al. 2009b). In addition, the observation of optical (V filter) polarisation at 19% level (Ikejiri et al. 2011) and optical (B and R filters) intraday variability (Liu et al. 2010), provided useful and important complementary information to strengthen the relativistic jet scenario.

The reanalysis of the data presented in this work confirms and extends the early findings reported by Abdo et al. (2009a,b) and Foschini et al. (2010). We have selected five epochs to represent the source activity during these three and a half years. The most relevant parameters driving the modelling of the SEDs in 2009 and 2010 are the injected power, the bulk Lorentz factor, and the magnetic field. The 2011 SED are instead characterised by a change (softening) in the electron distribution, with a decreasing contribution of high-energy leptons. The analysis of the SEDs modelling, together with the study of the variability, indicates that the jet hosted by the NLS1 PMN J0948+0022 is like those hosted by the flat-spectrum radio quasar subclass of blazars. This is another point favouring the universality of the jet phenomenon.

In 2009 and 2010, the jet emission followed what is expected from the canonical model of relativistic jets (Blandford & Königl 1979; Heinz & Sunyaev 2003), where the peak of radio emission follows the γ -rays after a few months. The year 2011 was instead characterised by a prolonged activity, with some peculiar events. Specifically, there was an optical/X-ray flare, which has no corresponding activity at other wavelengths. Such “orphan flares”⁸ have also been observed in other blazars (e.g. Krawczynski et al. 2004; Abdo et al. 2010b; Acciari et al. 2011; Marscher 2012; Marscher et al. 2012). Some attempts to explain this behaviour have been suggested (e.g. Marscher 2012), but none seem to

meet with the general consensus. In the present case, the sparse and irregular sampling at NIR/optical/UV/X-rays prevents the testing of specific hypotheses. The observed variability of a few days suggests the need of a denser sampling rate, perhaps a MW campaign limited to a short period, but with day-scale sampling.

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⁸ Although this term has been created by Krawczynski when speaking about a VHE flare of 1ES 1959+650 with no counterpart at other wavelengths (Krawczynski et al. 2004), its meaning can be extended to any flare at any frequency with no counterparts at other frequencies.

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Appendix A: Light curves

Light curves of all the data available and studied in the present work are displayed in the following. Figures A.1–A.3 are also available as tables in electronic form at the CDS.

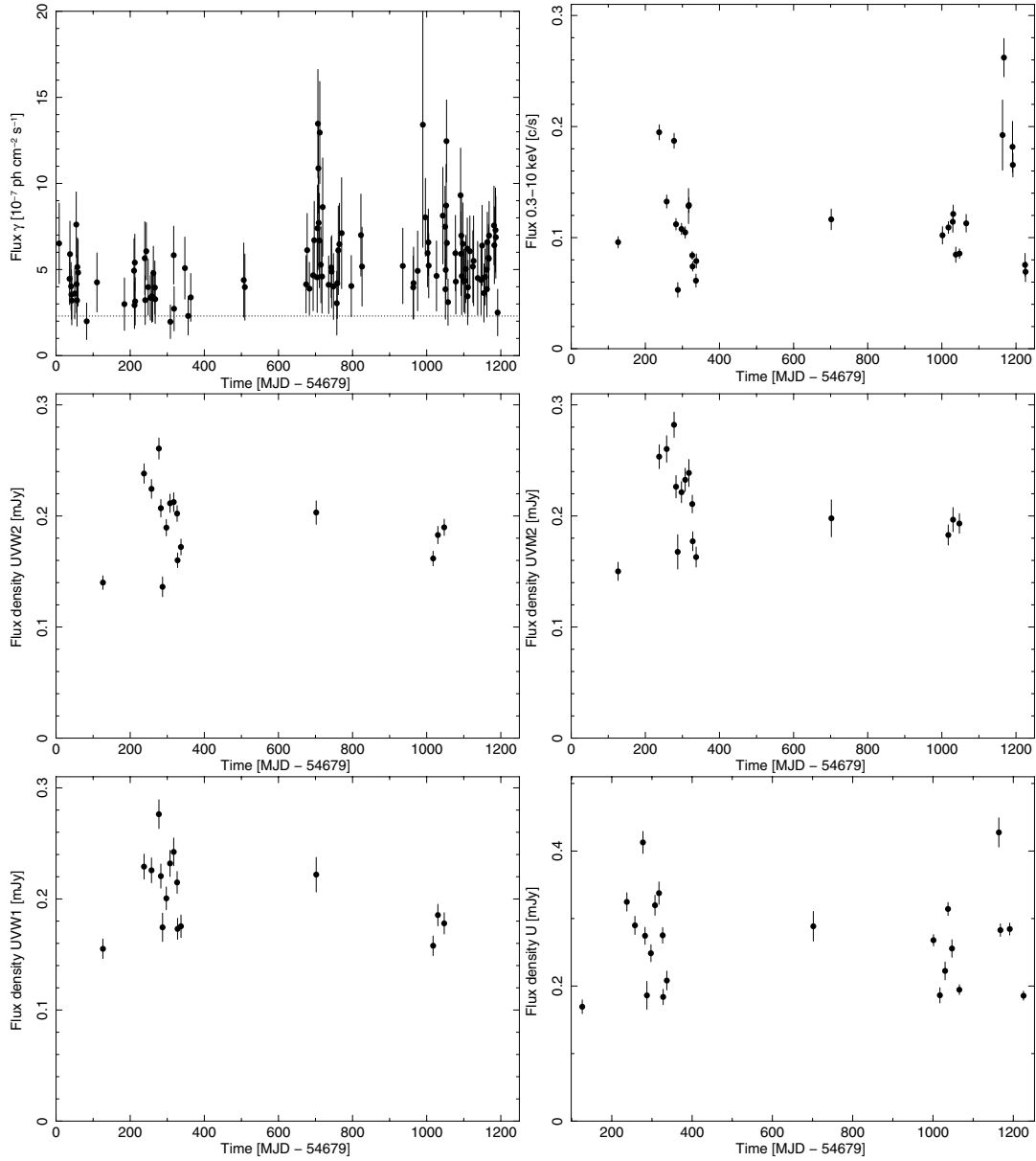


Fig. A.1. Light curves at various frequencies. *From top left to bottom right panel:* γ -ray 0.1–300 GeV from *Fermi*/LAT, with 1 day time bin [10^{-7} ph cm^{-2} s^{-1}] (the horizontal dotted line correspond to a $TS = 4$ average upper limit of 2.3×10^{-7} ph cm^{-2} s^{-1} for a one-day exposure); X-ray 0.3–10 keV from *Swift*/XRT [c s^{-1}]; UVW2 from *Swift*/UVOT [mJy]; UVM2 from *Swift*/UVOT [mJy]; UVW1 from *Swift*/UVOT [mJy]; U from *Swift*/UVOT [mJy]. Time starts on 2008 August 1 00:00 UTC (MJD 54679).

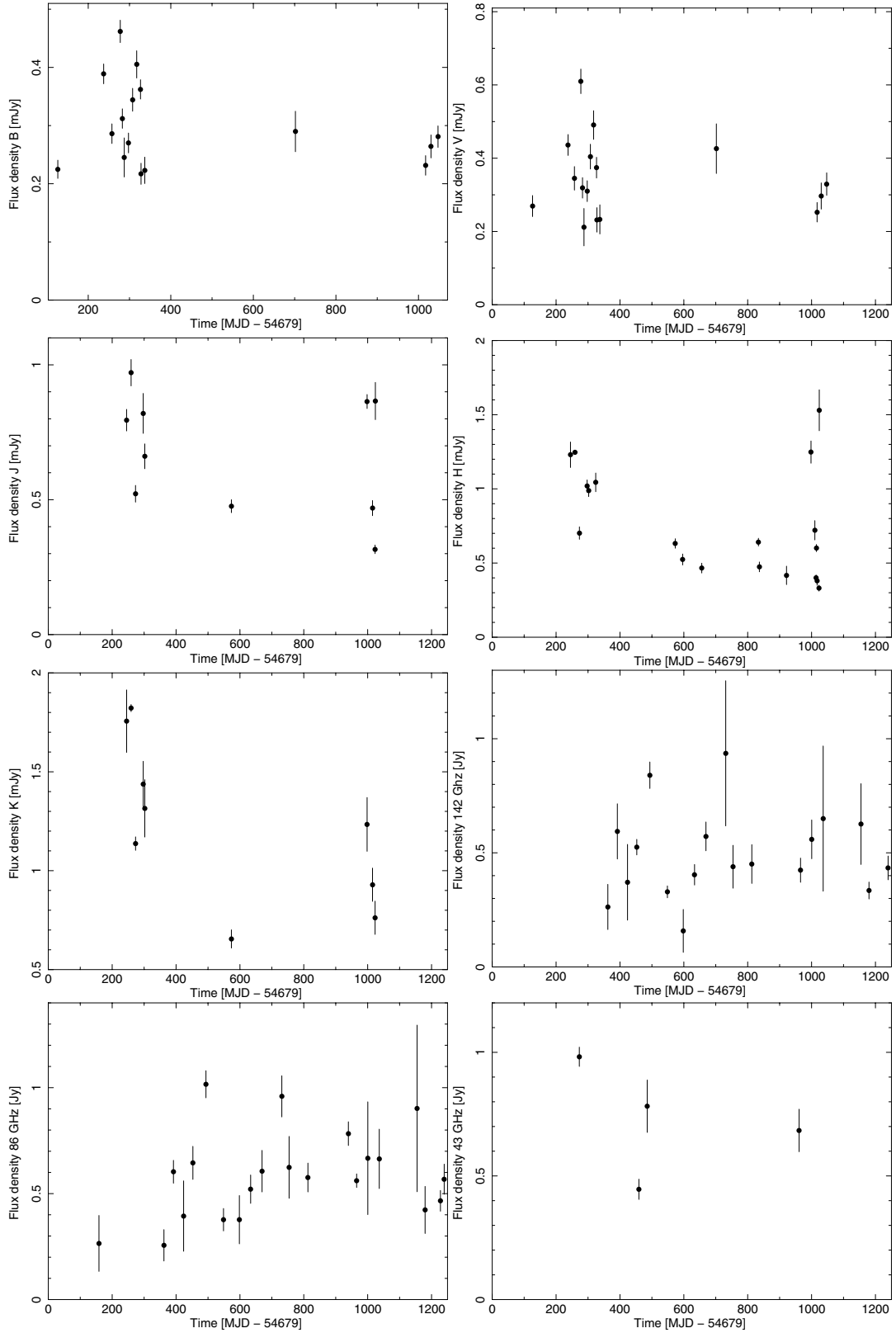


Fig. A.2. Light curves at various frequencies. *From top left to bottom right panel:* *B* from *Swift*/UVOT [mJy]; *V* from *Swift*/UVOT [mJy]; *J* from INAOE [mJy]; *H* from INAOE [mJy]; *K* from INAOE [mJy]; 142 GHz from IRAM [Jy]; 86 GHz from IRAM [Jy]; 43 GHz from Effelsberg [Jy]. Time starts on 2008 August 1 00:00 UTC (MJD 54 679).

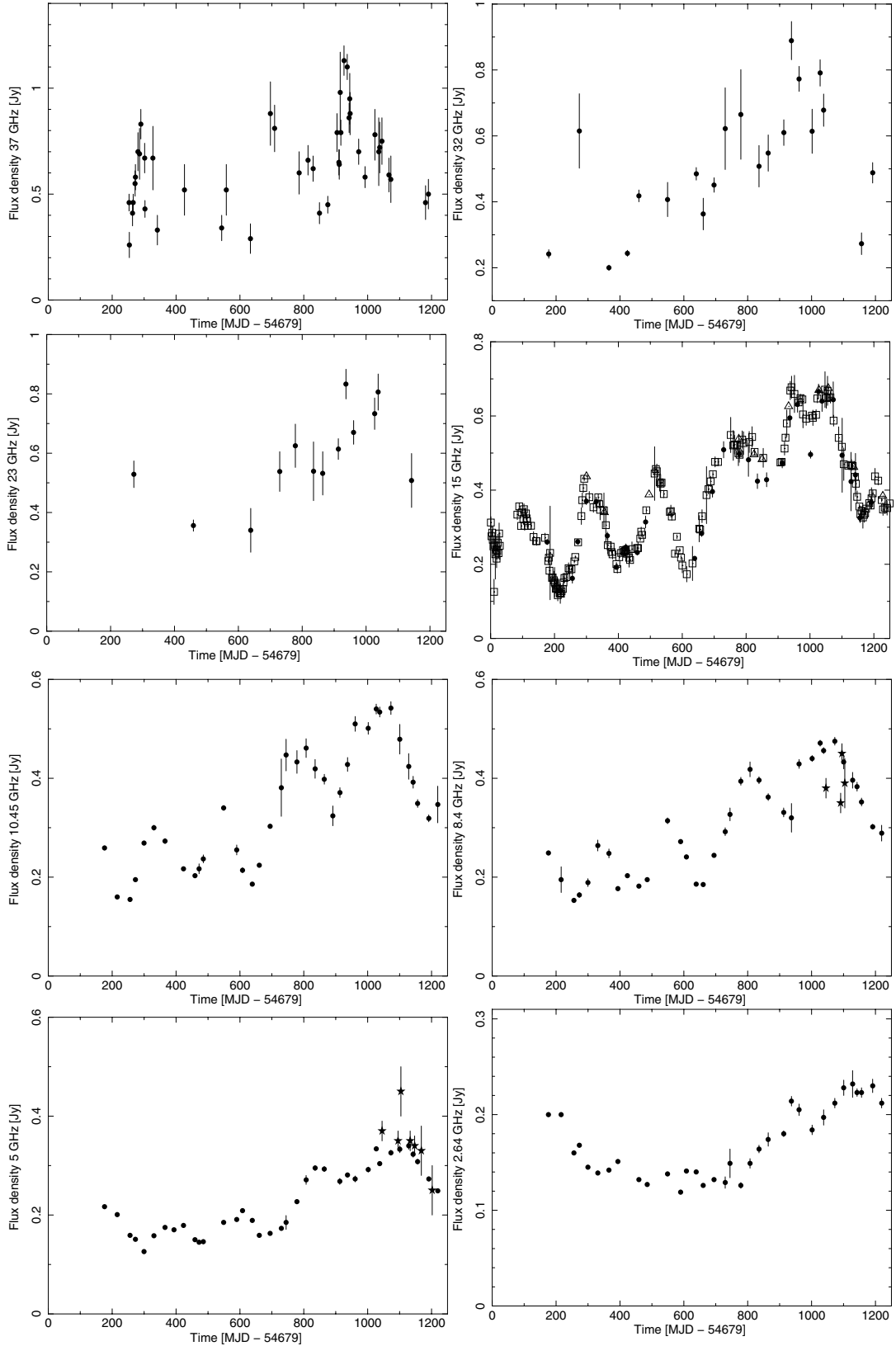


Fig. A.3. Light curves at various frequencies. *From top left to bottom right panel:* 37 GHz from Metsähovi [Jy]; 32 GHz from Effelsberg [Jy]; 23 GHz from Effelsberg [Jy]; 15 GHz from OVRO (open squares), Effelsberg (filled circles), and MOJAVE (open triangles) [Jy]; 10.45 GHz from Effelsberg [Jy]; 8.4 GHz from Effelsberg (filled circles) and Medicina (filled stars) [Jy]; 5.0 GHz from Effelsberg (filled circles) and Medicina (filled stars) [Jy]; 2.64 GHz from Effelsberg [Jy]. Time starts on 2008 August 1 00:00 UTC (MJD 54 679).