



Fermi  
Gamma-ray Space Telescope



# Building a Robust Sample of Fermi-LAT Blazars that Exhibit Periodic gamma-ray Emission

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**on behalf of the *Fermi*-LAT collaboration**

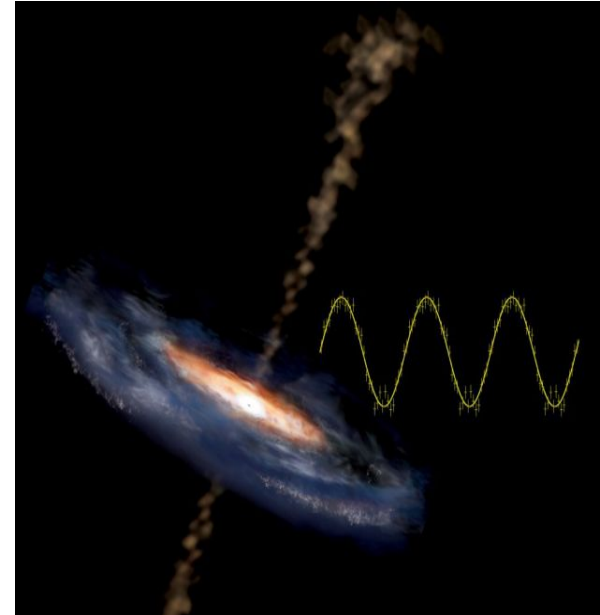
**Clemson University (SC, USA)**

*9th Fermi Symposium*

4-15-2021



- About 10% of AGN → launch highly collimated, relativistic, jets (e.g., [Sartori et al. 2019](#))
  - Pointed towards our line of sight → blazars
- Blazars: variability in the overall electromagnetic spectrum:
  - Different timescales:
    - Long-term variations → years or months
    - Short variations → days, hours or even minutes.
- Pattern → **Periodicity**
  - Provide information about its astrophysical nature



# Methodology

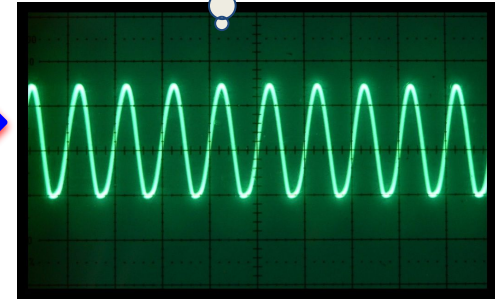
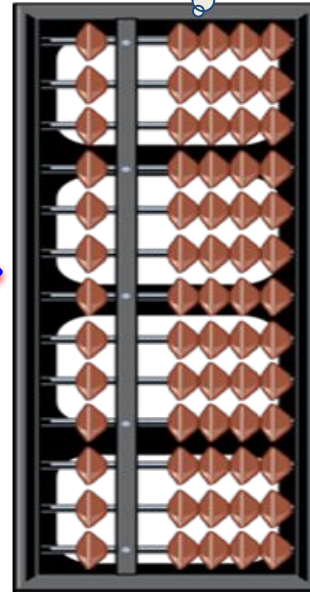
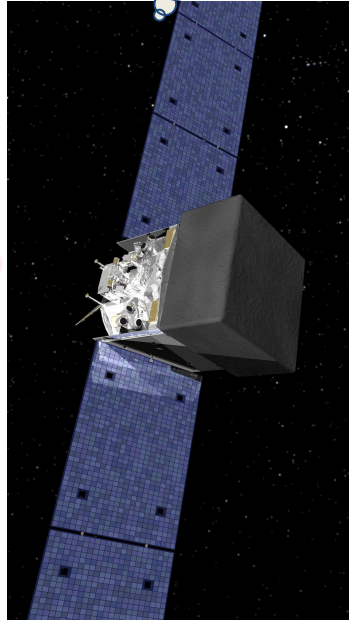
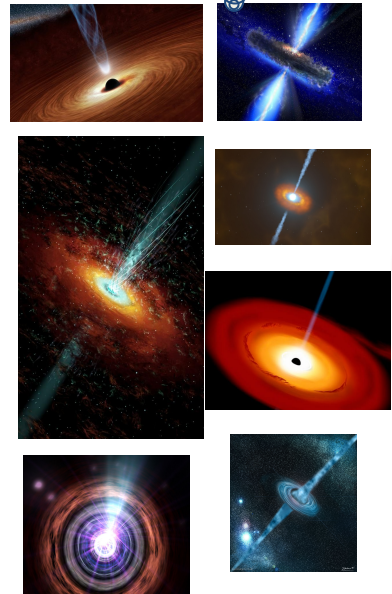


**GAMMA-RAY  
SOURCES**

**FERMI-LAT  
OBSERVATIONS**

**SYSTEMATIC  
SEARCH**

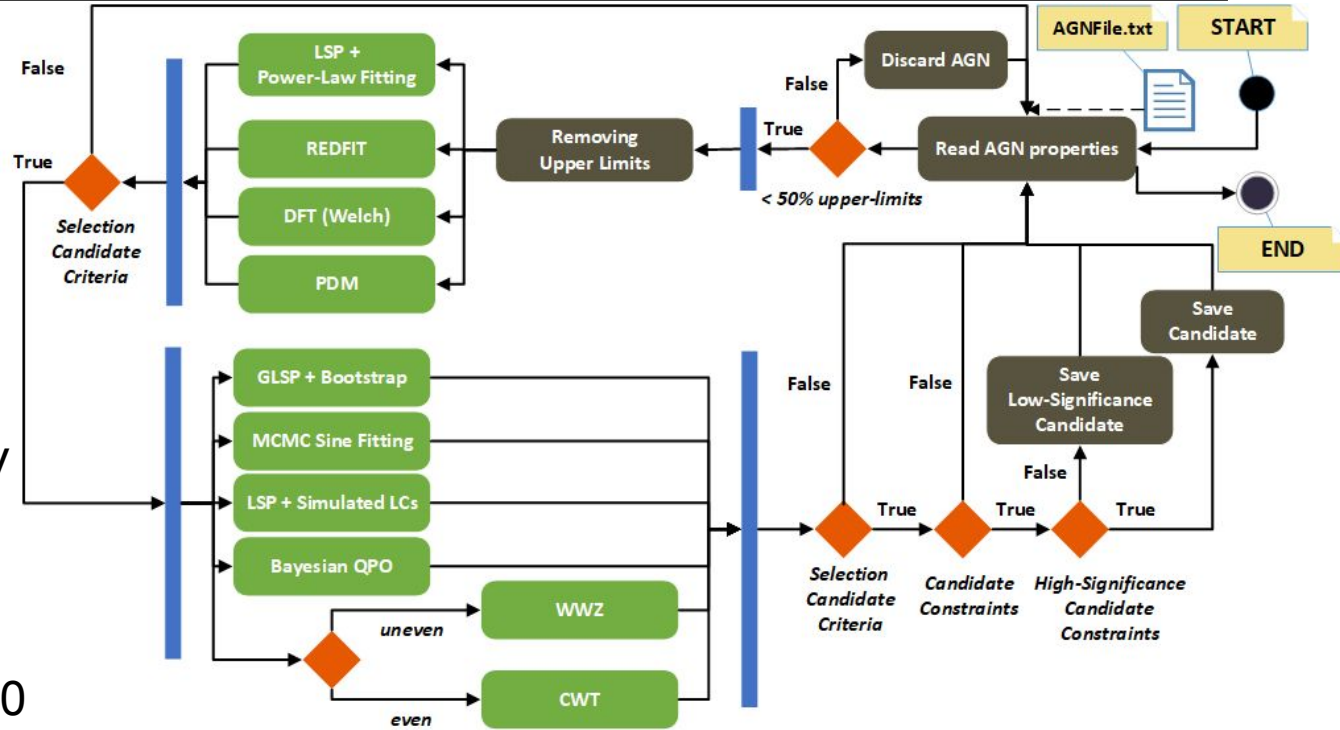
**LONG-TERM  
(YEARS)  
PERIODICITY**



# Previous Results



- 3FGL+2FHL+3FHL blazars
- Telescope time: Aug. 2008-Sep. 2017
- Data Reduction: Flux integrated  $\geq 1$  GeV 28-days binning
- Methods: Periodicity detection: 10  
Significance estimation: 4

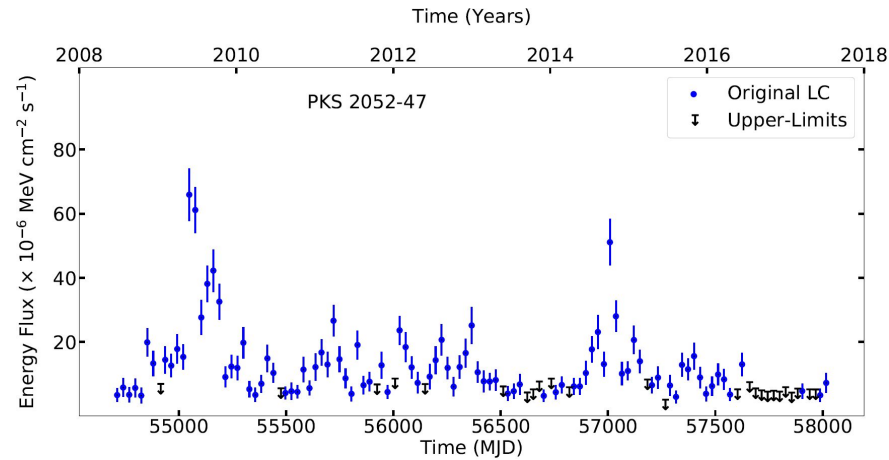
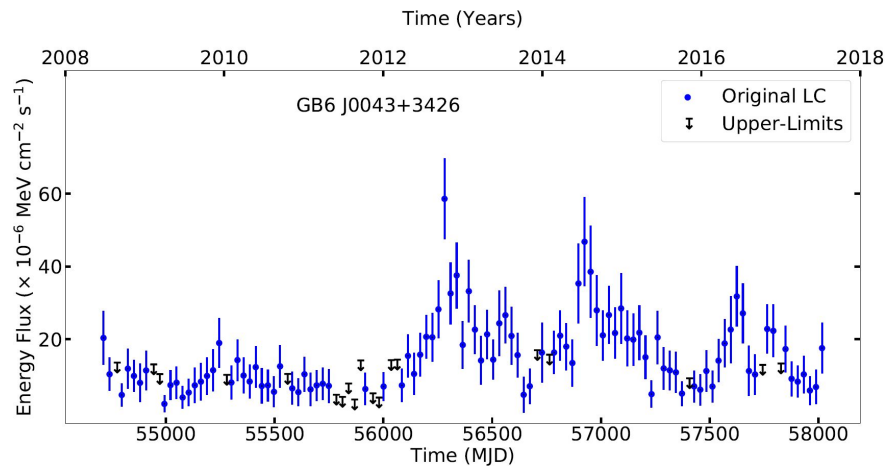


Peñil et al. 2020

# Previous Results



- 11 High-significance candidates ( $4\sigma$  in 4 methods)
  - 9 New detection
- 13 Low-significance candidates ( $4\sigma$  in 3 methods)
  - 9 New detections
- 6 objects previously reported in the literature:
  - 5 with the same period
  - S5 0716+ 714



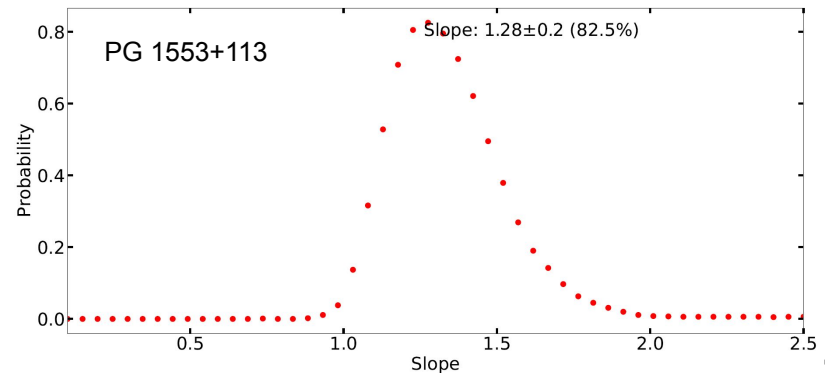
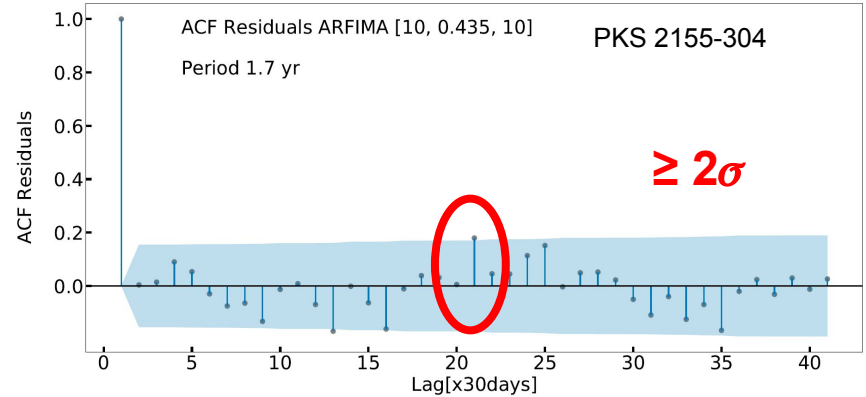


- 24 periodicity candidates from previous work Peñil et al., 2020
- Light Curves
  - Telescope time: August 2008-December 2020
  - Extended with 3 extra years → total of 12 years
- Data reduction:
  - Flux integrated  $\geq 100$  MeV
  - 28-days binning

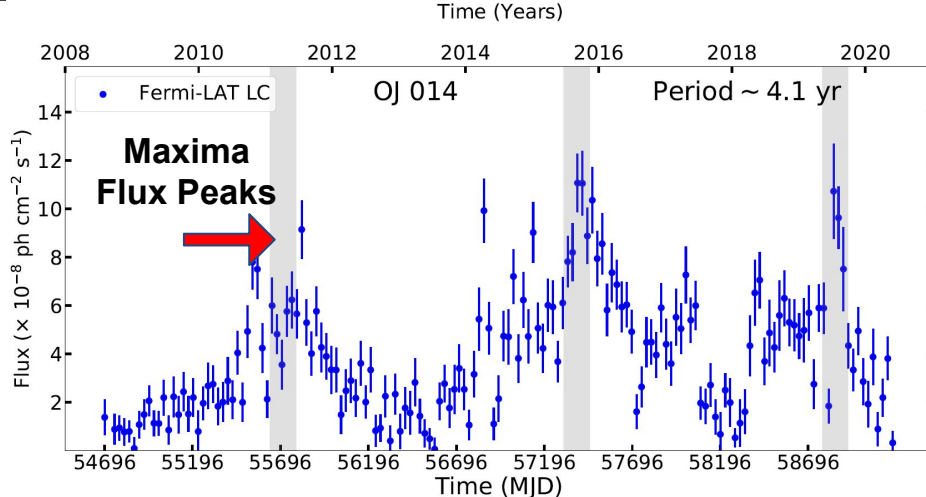
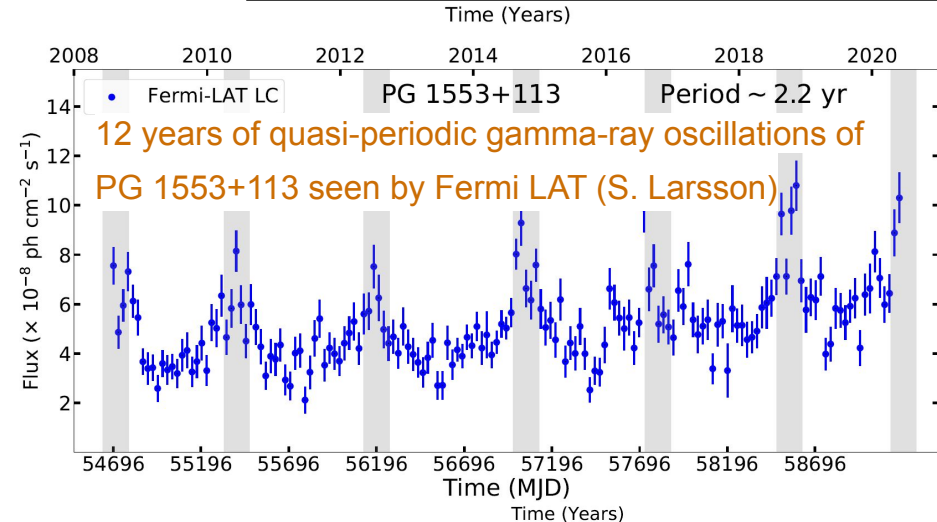
# Extended Pipeline



- Uncertainty is given by the Full Width Half Maximum (FWHM)
- ARIMA/ARFIMA analysis
- Power Spectral Density (periodogram)  
→ Power-law fitting:
  - $y = a \cdot f^\beta$
  - Power Spectrum Response method (Uttley et al. 2002)
  - Range [0.8-1.3]
- Flux Distribution:
  - Shapiro-Wilk Test & MLE
  - Log-Normal & Normal

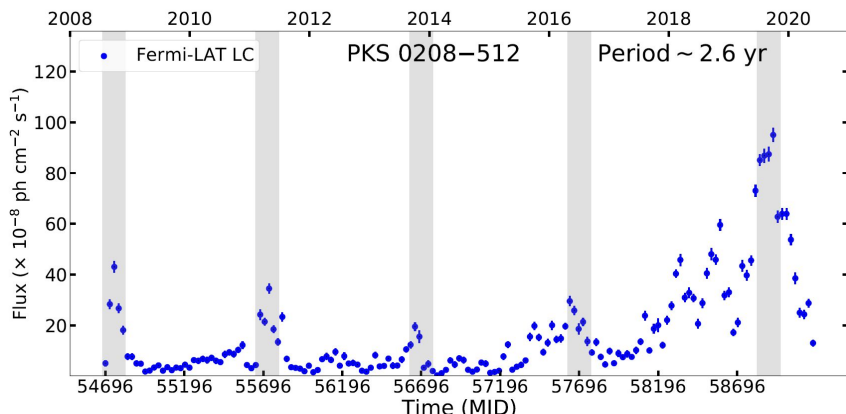


# Results: 6 Blazars $\geq 5\sigma$ periodicity detection



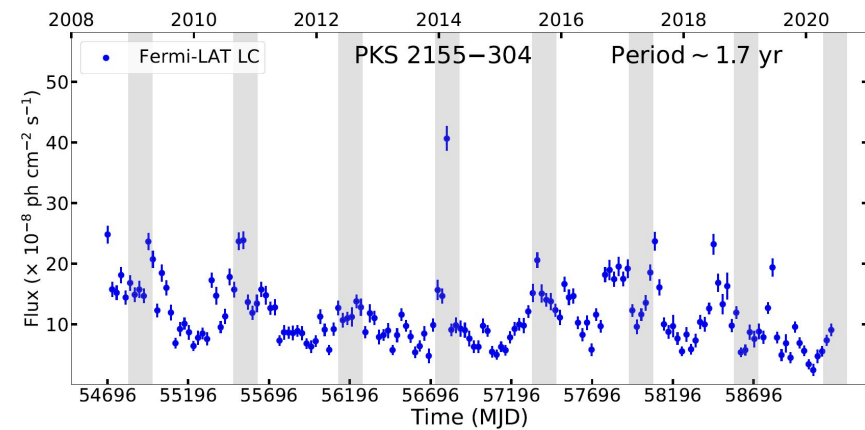
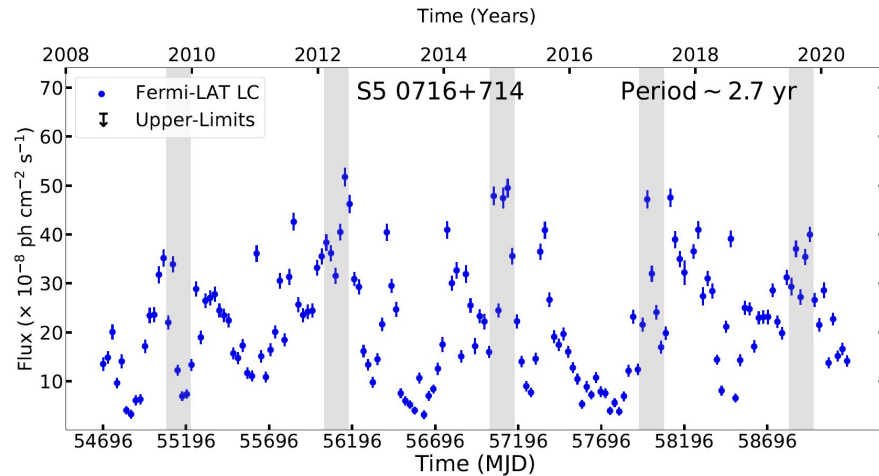
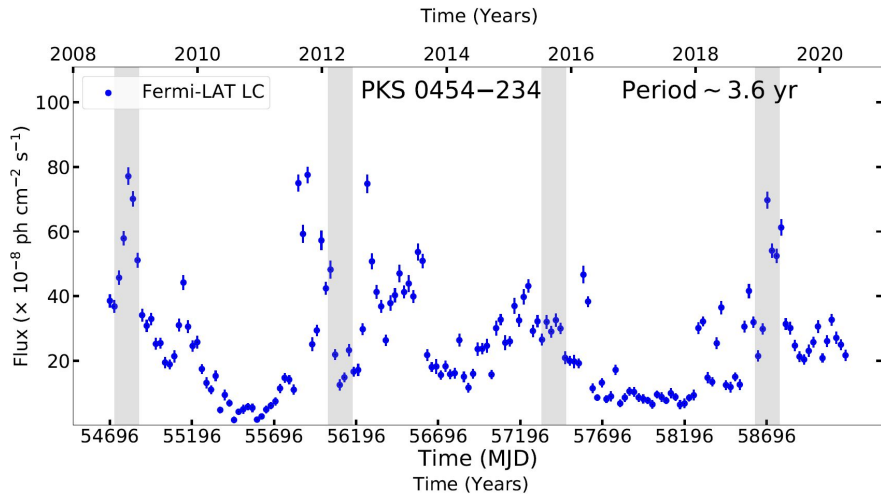
$\geq 5\sigma$  periodicity detection criterium  $\rightarrow$   
 $5\sigma$  in average

Peñil et al. 2020:  $>4\sigma$ ,  $>3.5\sigma$ ,  $>3\sigma$   
respectively





# Results: 6 Blazars $\geq 5\sigma$ periodicity detection



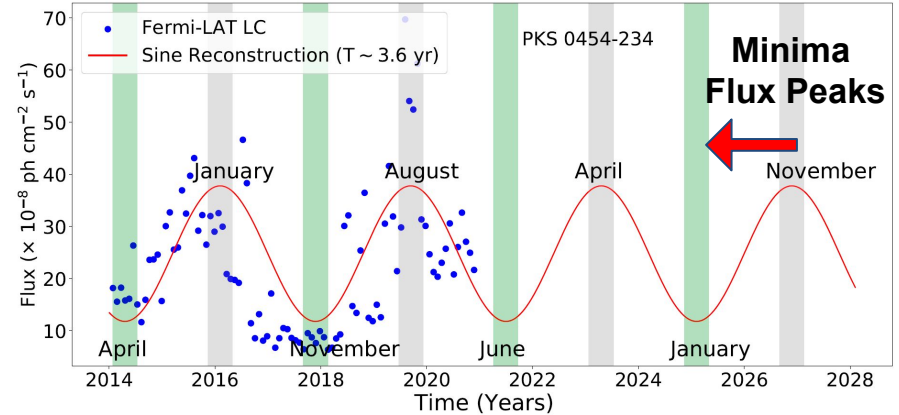
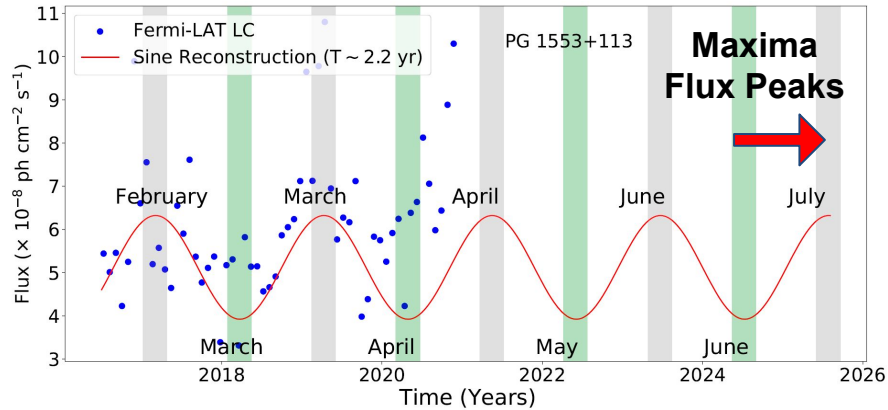
4FGL Source Name	RAJ2000	DecJ2000	Type	Redshift	Association Name	Period (yr)
J0210.7-5101	32.68952	-51.01695	fsrq	1.003	PKS 0208-512	2.6
J0457.0-2324	74.26096	-23.41384	fsrq	1.003	PKS 0454-234	3.6
J0721.9+7120	110.48882	71.34127	bl	0.127	S5 0716+714	2.7
J0811.3+0146	122.86418	1.77344	bl	1.148	OJ 014	4.1
J1555.7+1111	238.93169	11.18768	bl	0.36	PG 1553+113	2.2
J2158.8-3013	329.71409	-30.22556	bl	0.116	PKS 2155-304	1.7

**Peñil et al. 2020:  $>2.5\sigma$ ,  $>2.5\sigma$ ,  $>3\sigma$  respectively**

# Predicting the Future



- Predict the future:
  - 15 objects have a high/low emission state during this year

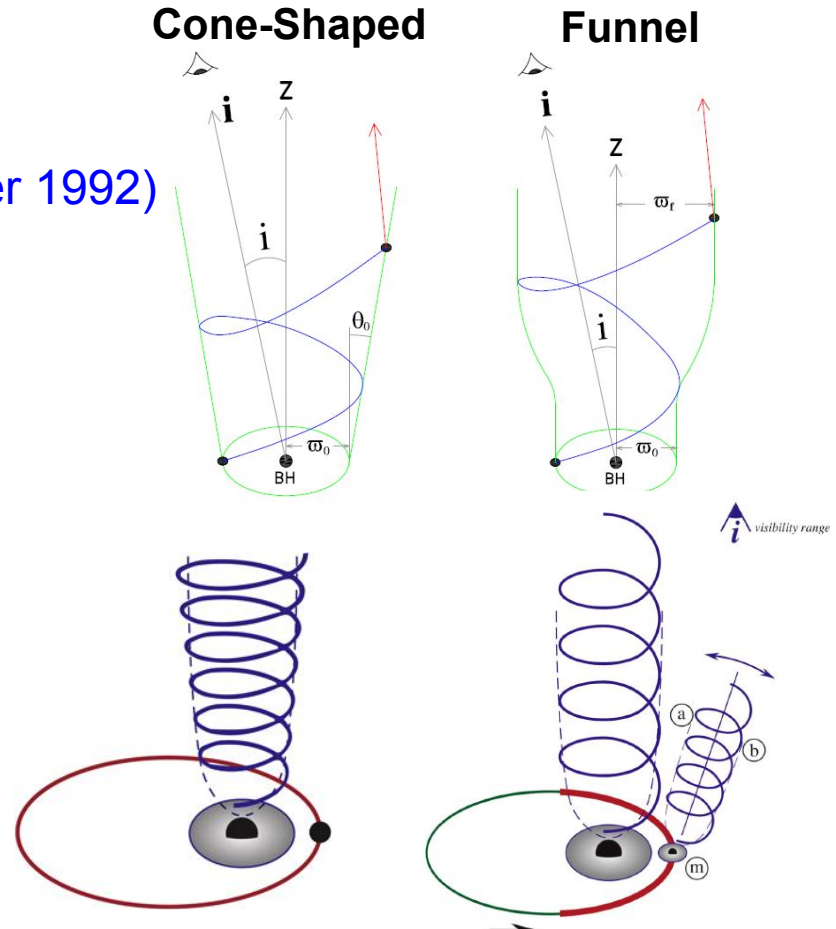


- Strategy to optimize Cherenkov telescopes observations
- Controversy  $\rightarrow$  LCs compatible with red noise:
  - Red noise  $\rightarrow$  stochastic  $\rightarrow$  **not predictable**
  - Yang et al., 2020 claims compatible with red noise

# Physical Interpretation



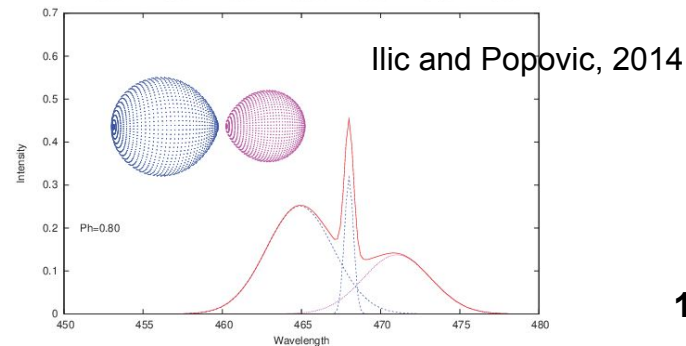
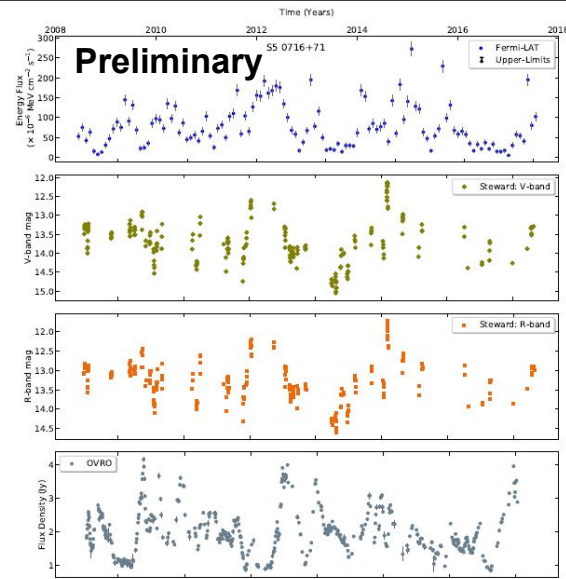
- Single SMBH:
  - Lighthouse effects in jets  
(e.g. Camenzind and Krockenberger 1992)
  - Density inhomogeneities in jets  
(Mohan and Mangalam, 2015)
- Binary SMBH
  - PG 1553+113:
    - Perturbed Jet  
(Cavaliere, A., et al., 2017)
    - Double jets  
(Tavani, M., et al., 2018)



# Ongoing and Future Work



- Multiwavelength Analysis (Emission Origin)
  - Periodicity
  - Cross-correlation
- Spectroscopy (Binary-SMBH):
  - Emission lines:
    - $H\beta$ –[OIII] region,  $H\alpha$ , [MgII]
  - Velocity offset
  - Lines shape



# Conclusions

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- We find 6 blazars with periodicity detected with  $\geq 5\sigma$
- We also find hints of periodicity for 12 blazars
- Estimating the future behavior of the periodicity candidates:
  - 15 blazars to be evaluated over this year
- Multiwavelength Analysis and spectroscopy
- Any questions: [ppenil@clemson.edu](mailto:ppenil@clemson.edu)