

Southern Hemisphere VLBI Observations of the Expansion of GRO J1655-40

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Abstract. We present high-resolution radio observations of the second Galactic superluminal radio source GRO1655-40, which was detected as an X-ray transient on 1994 July 27. Our radio images reveal two components moving away from each other at an angular speed of 65 ± 5 mas/day, corresponding to superluminal motion ($v/c = 1.4 \pm 0.4$) at the estimated distance of 3-5 kpc. The 12-day delay between the X-ray and radio outbursts suggests that the ejection of material at relativistic speeds occurs during a stable phase of accretion onto a black hole, which follows an unstable phase with a high accretion rate. A complete description and discussion of these observations can be found in Tingay *et al* 1995 (*Nature*, **374**, pp 141-143).

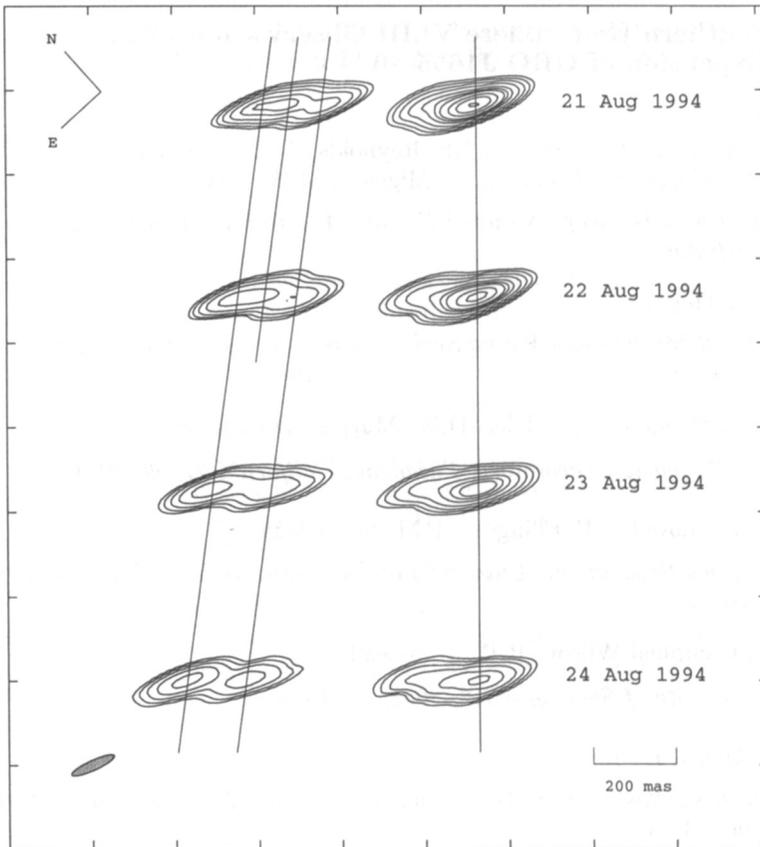


Figure 1. The four VLBI images at 2.29 GHz. The contour levels are 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 90, 95% of the peak flux density in the montage of $0.59 \text{ Jy beam}^{-1}$. The dynamic range is 100:1. The images have 1024×1024 pixels, each 2 mas across, and have each been rotated by 42° and aligned to register the southwest component vertically. The restoring beam is 123×26 mas with major axis position angle of 72° . The observations included Australian antennas at Tidbinbilla, Parkes, Hobart, Culgoora and Mopra. Antennas were also used in the USA at Goldstone and Mauna Kea, and in South Africa at Hartebeesthoek, but the source was not detected on any intercontinental baseline.