

IR OBSERVATIONS OF GAMMA-RAY BLAZARS

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During the nights of 26 and 27 April 1996 we carried out infrared photometric and spectral observations of five gamma-ray blazars either simultaneously (1 611-1343, 1 633-I 382, and Markarian 501) or closely contemporaneously (0716-1714 and 1836-1710) with observations by the Energetic Gamma-Ray Telescope Experiment (EGRET) on the *Compton Observatory*. The infrared measurements were made with two instruments on the Mt. Palomar 200-inch Hale telescope: at J ($1.25 \mu\text{m}$), H ($1.65 \mu\text{m}$), and K_s ($2.15 \mu\text{m}$) with the Cassegrain IR Camera and at $10.8 \mu\text{m}$ with the Mid-Infrared Large-well Imager (MIRLIN). In addition to providing direct correlations with the EGRET 100 MeV observations, the infrared measurements allow a search for intraday variability and provide spectral coverage near $10 \mu\text{m}$ where few blazars have been observed. As different types of blazar models predict significantly different behavior in the near- and mid-infrared regions, the $10 \mu\text{m}$ measurements have the potential to discriminate among the types of models.

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