

## DISCOVERY OF HIGH-ENERGY AND VERY HIGH ENERGY $\gamma$ -RAY EMISSION FROM THE BLAZAR RBS 0413

E. ALIU<sup>1</sup>, S. ARCHAMBAULT<sup>2</sup>, T. ARLEN<sup>3</sup>, T. AUNE<sup>4</sup>, M. BEILICKE<sup>5</sup>, W. BENBOW<sup>6</sup>, M. BÖTTCHER<sup>7</sup>, A. BOUVIER<sup>4</sup>,  
 S. M. BRADBURY<sup>8</sup>, J. H. BUCKLEY<sup>5</sup>, V. BUGAEV<sup>5</sup>, K. BYRUM<sup>9</sup>, A. CANNON<sup>10</sup>, A. CESARINI<sup>11</sup>, L. CIUPIK<sup>12</sup>, E. COLLINS-HUGHES<sup>10</sup>,  
 M. P. CONNOLLY<sup>11</sup>, P. COPPI<sup>13</sup>, W. CUI<sup>14</sup>, G. DECERPRIT<sup>9</sup>, R. DICKHERBER<sup>5</sup>, J. DUMM<sup>15</sup>, M. ERRANDO<sup>1</sup>, A. FALCONE<sup>16</sup>, Q. FENG<sup>14</sup>,  
 J. P. FINLEY<sup>14</sup>, G. FINNEGAN<sup>17</sup>, L. FORTSON<sup>15</sup>, A. FURNISS<sup>4</sup>, N. GALANTE<sup>6</sup>, D. GALL<sup>18</sup>, S. GODAMBE<sup>17</sup>, S. GRIFFIN<sup>2</sup>, J. GRUBE<sup>12</sup>,  
 G. GYUK<sup>12</sup>, D. HANNA<sup>2</sup>, K. HAWKINS<sup>7</sup>, J. HOLDER<sup>19</sup>, H. HUAN<sup>20</sup>, G. HUGHES<sup>21</sup>, T. B. HUMENSKY<sup>22</sup>, P. KAARET<sup>18</sup>, N. KARLSSON<sup>15</sup>,  
 M. KERTZMAN<sup>23</sup>, Y. KHASSEN<sup>10</sup>, D. KIEDA<sup>17</sup>, H. KRAWCZYNSKI<sup>5</sup>, F. KRENNRICH<sup>24</sup>, M. J. LANG<sup>11</sup>, K. LEE<sup>5</sup>, A. S. MADHAVAN<sup>24</sup>,  
 G. MAIER<sup>21</sup>, P. MAJUMDAR<sup>3</sup>, S. MCARTHUR<sup>5</sup>, A. MCCANN<sup>2</sup>, P. MORIARTY<sup>25</sup>, R. MUKHERJEE<sup>1</sup>, R. A. ONG<sup>3</sup>, M. ORR<sup>24</sup>,  
 A. N. OTTE<sup>4</sup>, N. PALMA<sup>7</sup>, N. PARK<sup>20</sup>, J. S. PERKINS<sup>26,27</sup>, A. PICHEL<sup>28</sup>, M. POHL<sup>21,29</sup>, H. PROKOPH<sup>21</sup>, J. QUINN<sup>10</sup>, K. RAGAN<sup>2</sup>,  
 L. C. REYES<sup>30</sup>, P. T. REYNOLDS<sup>31</sup>, E. ROACHE<sup>6</sup>, H. J. ROSE<sup>8</sup>, J. RUPPEL<sup>21,29</sup>, D. B. SAXON<sup>19</sup>, M. SCHROEDTER<sup>6</sup>, G. H. SEMBROSKI<sup>14</sup>,  
 G. D. ŞENTÜRK<sup>22</sup>, A. W. SMITH<sup>17</sup>, D. STASZAK<sup>2</sup>, I. TELEZHINSKY<sup>21,29</sup>, G. TEŠIĆ<sup>2</sup>, M. THEILING<sup>14</sup>, S. THIBADEAU<sup>5</sup>, K. TSURUSAKI<sup>18</sup>,  
 A. VARLOTTA<sup>14</sup>, M. VIVIER<sup>19</sup>, S. P. WAKELY<sup>20</sup>, J. E. WARD<sup>10</sup>, T. C. WEEKES<sup>6</sup>, A. WEINSTEIN<sup>24</sup>, T. WEISGARBER<sup>20</sup>,  
 D. A. WILLIAMS<sup>4</sup>, B. ZITZER<sup>14</sup>, P. FORTIN<sup>32</sup>, AND D. HORAN<sup>32</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Physics and Astronomy, Barnard College, Columbia University, NY 10027, USA

<sup>2</sup> Physics Department, McGill University, Montreal, QC H3A 2T8, Canada

<sup>3</sup> Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of California, Los Angeles, CA 90095, USA

<sup>4</sup> Santa Cruz Institute for Particle Physics and Department of Physics, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064, USA

<sup>5</sup> Department of Physics, Washington University, St. Louis, MO 63130, USA

<sup>6</sup> Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Amado, AZ 85645, USA

<sup>7</sup> Astrophysical Institute, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Ohio University, Athens, OH 45701, USA

<sup>8</sup> School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Leeds, Leeds, LS2 9JT, UK

<sup>9</sup> Argonne National Laboratory, 9700 S. Cass Avenue, Argonne, IL 60439, USA

<sup>10</sup> School of Physics, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland

<sup>11</sup> School of Physics, National University of Ireland Galway, University Road, Galway, Ireland

<sup>12</sup> Astronomy Department, Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum, Chicago, IL 60605, USA

<sup>13</sup> Department of Astronomy, Yale University, P. O. Box 208101 New Haven, CT 06511, USA

<sup>14</sup> Department of Physics, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907, USA

<sup>15</sup> School of Physics and Astronomy, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA

<sup>16</sup> Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, 525 Davey Lab, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802, USA

<sup>17</sup> Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT 84112, USA

<sup>18</sup> Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Iowa, Van Allen Hall, Iowa City, IA 52242, USA

<sup>19</sup> Department of Physics and Astronomy and the Bartol Research Institute, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716, USA

<sup>20</sup> Enrico Fermi Institute, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL 60637, USA

<sup>21</sup> DESY, Platanenallee 6, 15738 Zeuthen, Germany

<sup>22</sup> Physics Department, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027, USA; [gunessenturk@gmail.com](mailto:gunessenturk@gmail.com)

<sup>23</sup> Department of Physics and Astronomy, DePaul University, Greencastle, IN 46135-0037, USA

<sup>24</sup> Department of Physics and Astronomy, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011, USA

<sup>25</sup> Department of Life and Physical Sciences, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology, Dublin Road, Galway, Ireland

<sup>26</sup> CRESST and Astroparticle Physics Laboratory NASA/GSFC, Greenbelt, MD 20771, USA

<sup>27</sup> University of Maryland, Baltimore County, 1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250, USA

<sup>28</sup> Instituto de Astronomía y Física del Espacio, Casilla de Correo 67-Sucursal 28, (C1428ZAA) Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina

<sup>29</sup> Institut für Physik und Astronomie, Universität Potsdam, 14476 Potsdam-Golm, Germany

<sup>30</sup> Physics Department, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA 94307, USA

<sup>31</sup> Department of Applied Physics and Instrumentation, Cork Institute of Technology, Bishopstown, Cork, Ireland

<sup>32</sup> Laboratoire Leprince-Ringuet, École polytechnique, CNRS/IN2P3, Palaiseau, France; [fortin@llr.in2p3.fr](mailto:fortin@llr.in2p3.fr), [deirdre@llr.in2p3.fr](mailto:deirdre@llr.in2p3.fr)

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### ABSTRACT

We report on the discovery of high-energy (HE;  $E > 0.1$  GeV) and very high energy (VHE;  $E > 100$  GeV)  $\gamma$ -ray emission from the high-frequency-peaked BL Lac object RBS 0413. VERITAS, a ground-based  $\gamma$ -ray observatory, detected VHE  $\gamma$  rays from RBS 0413 with a statistical significance of 5.5 standard deviations ( $\sigma$ ) and a  $\gamma$ -ray flux of  $(1.5 \pm 0.6_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.7_{\text{syst}}) \times 10^{-8}$  photons  $\text{m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  ( $\sim 1\%$  of the Crab Nebula flux) above 250 GeV. The observed spectrum can be described by a power law with a photon index of  $3.18 \pm 0.68_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.30_{\text{syst}}$ . Contemporaneous observations with the Large Area Telescope (LAT) on the *Fermi* Gamma-ray Space Telescope detected HE  $\gamma$  rays from RBS 0413 with a statistical significance of more than  $9\sigma$ , a power-law photon index of  $1.57 \pm 0.12_{\text{stat}}^{+0.11}_{-0.12_{\text{syst}}}$ , and a  $\gamma$ -ray flux between 300 MeV and 300 GeV of  $(1.64 \pm 0.43_{\text{stat}}^{+0.31}_{-0.22_{\text{syst}}}) \times 10^{-5}$  photons  $\text{m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ . We present the results from *Fermi*-LAT and VERITAS, including a spectral energy distribution modeling of the  $\gamma$ -ray, quasi-simultaneous X-ray (*Swift*-XRT), ultraviolet (*Swift*-UVOT), and *R*-band optical (MDM) data. We find that, if conditions close to equipartition are required, both the combined synchrotron self-Compton/external-Compton and the lepto-hadronic models are preferred over a pure synchrotron self-Compton model.

**Key words:** BL Lacertae objects: individual (RBS 0413–VER J0319+187) – gamma rays: galaxies

**Online-only material:** color figure

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Blazars are active galactic nuclei that have their jet axis oriented at a small angle with respect to the observer (Urry & Padovani 1995). They are observationally classified as either flat-spectrum radio quasars (FSRQ) or BL Lacertae (BL Lac) objects according to the broad line emission in their optical spectra. Recent studies interpreting the differing spectral high-energy (HE)  $\gamma$ -ray properties of the FSRQs and BL Lacs based on physical mechanisms can be found in, e.g., Ghisellini et al. (2009). Blazars are known to emit non-thermal radiation characterized by a double-peaked spectral energy distribution (SED). The low-energy component, generally covering radio to UV/X-ray bands, is usually explained as due to synchrotron emission from relativistic electrons in the blazar jet. The origin of the HE component, occurring in the X-ray to  $\gamma$ -ray regime, is still not completely resolved and could be due to emission from a relativistic particle beam consisting of leptons and/or hadrons. In leptonic models, very high energy (VHE) photons are produced by inverse-Compton (IC) scattering of low-energy photons off the synchrotron-emitting electrons. The soft seed photons for the IC process can be the synchrotron photons (synchrotron self-Compton (SSC); e.g., Maraschi et al. 1992), or they may originate from ambient radiation (external-Compton (EC); e.g., Dermer & Schlickeiser 1993). Hadronic models include synchrotron emission from protons (e.g., Aharonian 2000) and  $\pi^0$ -decay from hadronic interactions with subsequent electromagnetic cascades (e.g., Mücke et al. 2003).

RBS 0413 was discovered in the X-ray band (1E 0317.0+1834) during the Einstein Medium Sensitivity Survey and was optically identified as a BL Lac (Gioia et al. 1984). The object was also detected as a radio emitter with the Very Large Array of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (Stoeckle et al. 1990). It exhibits significant and variable optical polarization (Stoeckle et al. 1985). Having a “featureless” optical spectrum (Stoeckle et al. 1989) and an estimated synchrotron peak frequency  $\log(\nu_{\text{peak}}/\text{Hz}) = 16.99$  (Nieppola et al. 2006), RBS 0413 is classified as a high-frequency-peaked BL Lac object (HBL; Padovani & Giommi 1995). It is located at a redshift of 0.190 (Gioia et al. 1984; Stoeckle et al. 1985).

The MAGIC Collaboration observed RBS 0413 in 2004 December–2005 February for a livetime of 6.9 hr and reported a VHE flux upper limit of  $4.2 \times 10^{-12} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , at 200 GeV, assuming a power-law spectrum with a photon index of 3.0 (Albert et al. 2008). VERITAS observed the source in the 2008–2009 season and obtained a marginal significance of  $\sim 3\sigma$ . In 2009, *Fermi* Large Area Telescope (LAT) detected HE emission from the direction of RBS 0413 (Abdo et al. 2010b), triggering new VERITAS observations. These new observations, combined with the previous data, resulted in the detection of RBS 0413 as a VHE  $\gamma$ -ray emitter in 2009 October (Ong & Fortin 2009).

## 2. VERITAS OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS RESULTS

VERITAS is a ground-based  $\gamma$ -ray observatory sensitive to  $\gamma$  rays with energy between 100 GeV and 30 TeV. Located at the Fred Lawrence Whipple Observatory (FLWO) near Amado, southern Arizona, USA (1.3 km above sea level, N  $31^\circ 40'$ , W  $110^\circ 57'$ ), the array consists of four imaging atmospheric Cherenkov telescopes, each having a diameter of 12 m and a field of view of  $3^\circ 5'$  (Holder et al. 2008). During the 2009 annual shutdown (July–August), one of the telescopes was relocated to give a more symmetrical array layout. In addition, a new

**Table 1**  
Differential Flux Measurements of RBS 0413 above 250 GeV with VERITAS

Energy (TeV)	Flux ( $\text{m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ TeV}^{-1}$ )	Significance ( $\sigma$ )
0.30	$(1.3 \pm 0.7) \times 10^{-7}$	2.1
0.42	$(5.1 \pm 1.9) \times 10^{-8}$	3.0
0.60	$(1.5 \pm 0.7) \times 10^{-8}$	2.3
0.85	$(4.3 \pm 3.4) \times 10^{-9}$	1.2

**Notes.** The first column shows the mean energies, weighted by the spectral index. The errors are statistical only.

mirror-alignment system applied in 2009 Spring contributed to an improvement in the point-spread function (PSF), with a decrease of 25%–30% in the 80% containment radius (McCann et al. 2010). As a consequence, the sensitivity showed a significant improvement, and the observation time required for a 1% Crab Nebula detection dropped from  $\sim 48$  hr to less than 30 hr. For observations at  $70^\circ$  elevation, the energy resolution is 15%–20%, and the angular resolution, defined as the 68% containment radius, is less than  $0.1^\circ$  (Perkins et al. 2009).

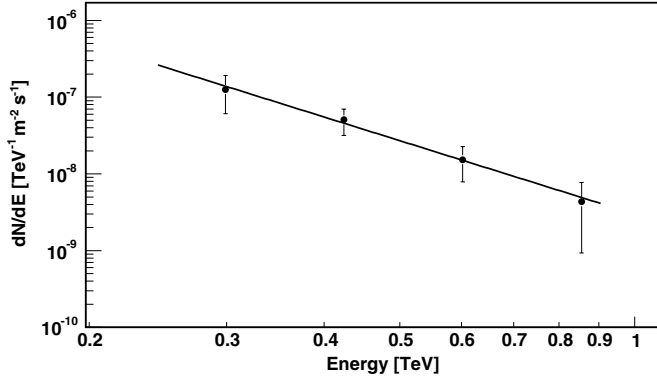
VERITAS observed RBS 0413 for 48 hr total using *wobble* mode (Aharonian 2001), with north, south, east, and west wobble positions. After discarding observing runs compromised by bad weather, and a small number affected by hardware problems, 26 hr remained for analysis. One-third of these data were obtained with the old array configuration (2008 September–2009 February, MJD 54732–54883) and the rest with the new array (2009 September–2010 January, MJD 55092–55485). Approximately 3 hr of data with the old array were taken under weak moonlight, which leads to a higher energy threshold for those observations. The source elevation in the data set ranges from  $57^\circ$  to  $79^\circ$ , with an average of  $\sim 70^\circ$ . Data analysis steps consist of calibration, image parameterization (Hillas 1985), event reconstruction, background rejection, and signal extraction as described in Daniel et al. (2008). For signal extraction, a  $\theta^2$  cut (Daniel et al. 2008) of 0.0169, optimized for a point source of 1% strength of the Crab Nebula, was used.

RBS 0413 is a weak source in the VHE regime. Using a “reflected-region” background estimation (Aharonian 2001), an excess of 180 events and a significance of  $5.5\sigma$  are obtained for the source location at R.A. =  $03^{\text{h}}19^{\text{m}}47^{\text{s}} \pm 4^{\text{s}}_{\text{stat}} \pm 7^{\text{s}}_{\text{syst}}$  and decl. =  $18^\circ 45' 7'' \pm 1' 0''_{\text{stat}} \pm 1' 8''_{\text{syst}}$  (J2000 coordinates). The VERITAS signal is consistent with a point source, and we name the object VER J0319+187. The energy distribution of  $\gamma$ -ray events extends from  $\sim 250$  GeV to  $\sim 1.0$  TeV (see Table 1 for a list of spectral data points) and is well described by a power-law function,  $dN/dE = F_0 E^{-\Gamma}$ . The best fit is obtained with photon index  $\Gamma = 3.18 \pm 0.68_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.30_{\text{syst}}$  and flux normalization  $F_0 = (1.38 \pm 0.52_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.60_{\text{syst}}) \times 10^{-7} \text{ TeV}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 0.3 TeV, with a value of  $\chi^2$  per degree of freedom ( $\chi^2/\text{dof}$ ) of 0.14/2 (see Figure 1).

The integral flux above 250 GeV is  $(1.5 \pm 0.6_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.7_{\text{syst}}) \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , corresponding to a flux level of approximately 1% of the flux of the Crab Nebula. No significant flux variability is detected (see Figure 2, top panel and caption for details of the light-curve analysis). An upper limit (99% confidence level) on the fractional variability amplitude ( $F_{\text{var}}$ ; Vaughan et al. 2003) yields  $F_{\text{var}} < 3.2$ .

## 3. FERMI OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS RESULTS

The LAT aboard the *Fermi* Gamma-ray Space Telescope is a pair-conversion  $\gamma$ -ray detector sensitive to photons in the energy



**Figure 1.** VERITAS measured photon spectrum of RBS 0413. See the text for the parameters of the power-law fit shown.

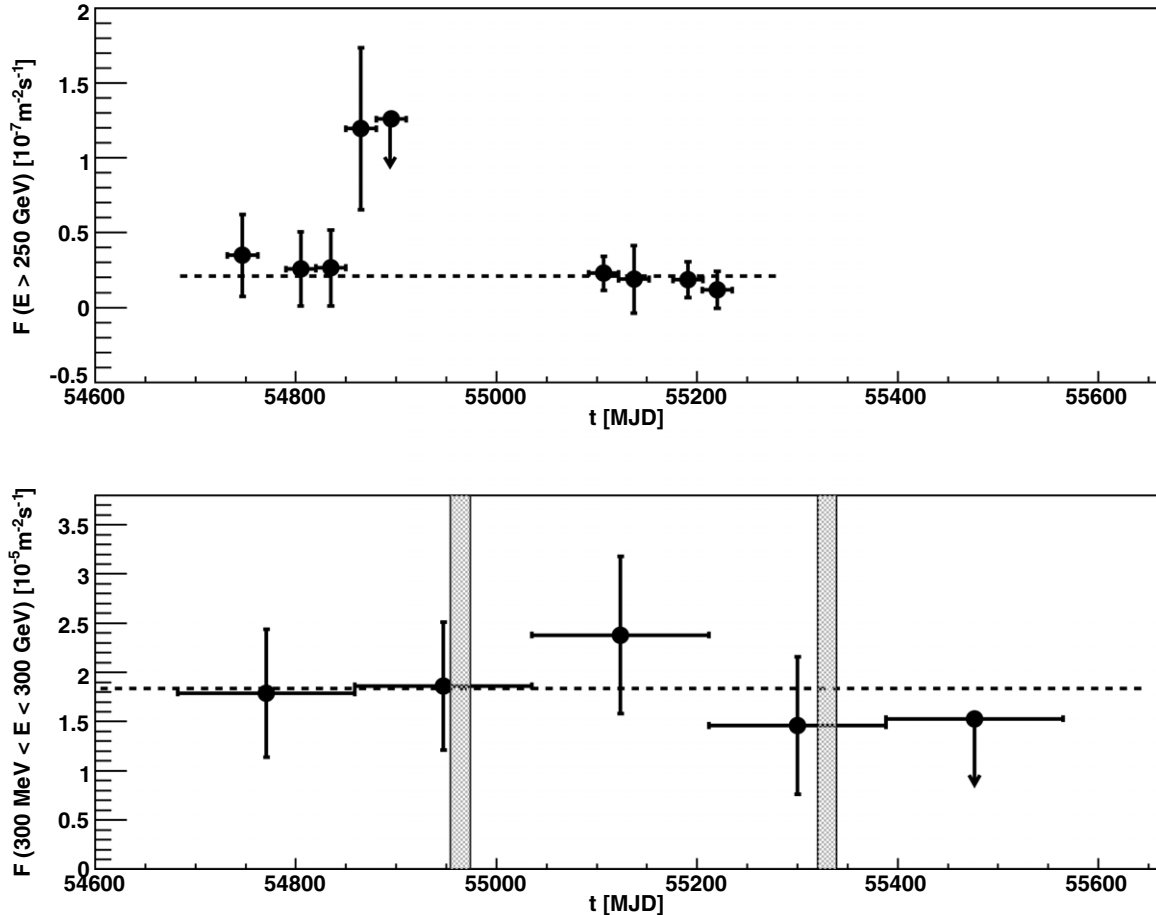
range from below 20 MeV to more than 300 GeV (Atwood et al. 2009). The present analysis includes the data taken between 2008 August 4 and 2011 January 4 (MJD 54682–55565), which covers the entire VERITAS observation interval. Events from the Pass 6 *diffuse* class with energy between 300 MeV and 300 GeV, with zenith angle  $< 100^\circ$ , and from a square region of side  $20^\circ$  centered on RBS 0413, were selected for this analysis. The cut at 300 MeV was used to minimize larger systematic errors at lower energies. The time intervals when the source was close to the Sun (MJD 54954–54974 and 55320–55339) were

excluded. The data were analyzed with the LAT Science Tools version v9r20p0<sup>33</sup> and the post-launch instrument-response functions P6\_V11\_DIFFUSE. The binned maximum-likelihood tools were used for significance and flux calculation (Cash 1979; Mattox et al. 1996). Sources from the 1FGL catalog (Abdo et al. 2010b) located within a square region of side  $24^\circ$  centered on RBS 0413 were included in the model of the region. The background model includes the standard Galactic and isotropic diffuse emission components.<sup>34</sup>

A point source positionally consistent with RBS 0413 is detected with a significance of more than  $9\sigma$  (test statistic,  $TS = 89$ ; see Mattox et al. 1996). The photon energy spectrum is best described by a power-law function. Replacing the power-law model with a log-parabola model does not significantly improve the likelihood fit. The time-averaged integral flux is  $I(300 \text{ MeV} < E < 300 \text{ GeV}) = (1.64 \pm 0.43_{\text{stat}}^{+0.31}_{-0.22_{\text{sys}}}) \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , and the spectral index is  $1.57 \pm 0.12_{\text{stat}}^{+0.11}_{-0.12_{\text{sys}}}$ . The spectral points were calculated using the procedure presented in Abdo et al. (2010b; see Table 2). In the energy range 100–300 GeV, no detection was obtained ( $TS < 9$ ) and an upper limit at the 95% confidence level was derived. Figure 2 (bottom panel) shows the *Fermi* light curve with  $\sim 6$  month wide time bins. The upper limit point in the last time bin has a 95%

<sup>33</sup> <http://fermi.gsfc.nasa.gov/ssc/data/analysis/scitools/overview.html>

<sup>34</sup> <http://fermi.gsfc.nasa.gov/ssc/data/access/lat/BackgroundModels.html>



**Figure 2.** Top: 30 day light curve for the VERITAS data. A fit with a constant function gives a  $\chi^2/\text{dof}$  value of 14/8, corresponding to a fit probability of 8%, consistent with the hypothesis of a constant flux. The negative flux point corresponding to the upper limit point in the light curve was included in the fit. Bottom: the light curve for the *Fermi* data using  $\sim 6$  month wide time bins. The shaded areas represent the time intervals that were excluded to avoid solar contamination. In both graphs, the dashed lines represent the constant fit function.



**Table 2**  
Differential Flux Measurements of RBS 0413 with the *Fermi*-LAT

Energy (GeV)	Flux ( $\text{m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1} \text{TeV}^{-1}$ )
0.55	$< 2.2 \times 10^{-2}$
1.73	$(2.6 \pm 0.9) \times 10^{-3}$
5.48	$(3.9 \pm 1.2) \times 10^{-4}$
17.3	$(4.6 \pm 2.1) \times 10^{-5}$
54.8	$(7.7 \pm 4.6) \times 10^{-6}$
173	$< 4.7 \times 10^{-6}$

**Notes.** The energies correspond to the bin centers. The errors are statistical only.

confidence level. Comparing the likelihood of a model in which the flux in each time bin is free to vary to one where it is assumed to be constant yields a null hypothesis probability of 11%; thus, we find no evidence for variability. Details on the methodology can be found in Nolan et al. (2012). Using the same method as in Section 2 and including the flux value returned by the likelihood fit in the last bin, we estimate  $F_{\text{var}} < 3.2$  with 99% confidence level.

#### 4. SWIFT OBSERVATIONS

The VERITAS detection triggered a *Swift* (Gehrels et al. 2004) target-of-opportunity observation of RBS 0413 on 2009 November 11, with a total exposure of 2.4 ks. All *Swift*-XRT data were reduced using the standard *Swift* analysis pipeline described in Burrows et al. (2005) using the *HEASoft* 6.8 package. Event files were calibrated and cleaned following the standard filtering criteria using the *xrtpipeline* task and applying calibration files current to 2010 March. All data were taken in photon-counting mode over the energy range 0.3–10 keV. Due to the moderate count rate of 0.3 counts  $\text{s}^{-1}$ , the data are not affected by photon pile-up in the core of the PSF, and partial masking of the source is not necessary. Source events were extracted from a circular region with a radius of 30 pixels (70'8) centered on the source, and background events were extracted from a 40 pixel radius circle in a source-free region. Ancillary response files were generated using the *xrtmkarf* task, with corrections applied for the PSF losses and CCD defects. The latest response matrix from the XRT calibration files was applied. The extracted XRT energy spectrum was rebinned to contain a minimum of 20 counts in each bin.

An absorbed power-law model, including the *phabs*<sup>35</sup> model for photoelectric absorption, was fitted to the *Swift*-XRT photon spectrum. The cross-sections and abundances used the standard Xspec v12.5 values, as given in the Xspec Analysis Manual.<sup>36</sup> Using a fixed Galactic hydrogen column density,  $N_{\text{H}} = 8.91 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$  (Kalberla et al. 2005), the best-fit model yields a  $\chi^2/\text{dof}$  value of 25.9/26. Over the energy range 0.3–10 keV, the best-fit photon index is  $\Gamma = 2.22 \pm 0.07$ , and the normalization at 1 keV is  $(33.1 \pm 2.2) \text{ keV}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . The unabsorbed integral flux is  $F(0.3\text{--}10 \text{ keV}) = (1.69 \pm 0.12) \times 10^{-11} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  in the range 0.3–10 keV. The absorbed integral flux in the range 2–10 keV is  $F(2\text{--}10 \text{ keV}) = (5.81 \pm 0.55) \times 10^{-12} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . No flux variability is evident over the 2.4 ks exposure.

UVOT observations were taken in the photometric band UVM2 (2246 Å; Poole et al. 2008). The *uvotsource* tool

was used to extract counts, correct for coincidence losses, apply background subtraction, and calculate the source flux. The standard 5'' radius source aperture was used, with a 20'' background region. The source fluxes were dereddened using the procedure in Roming et al. (2009). The measured flux is  $(2.75 \pm 0.11) \times 10^{-12} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ .

#### 5. MDM OBSERVATIONS

The *R*-band optical data were taken with the 1.3 m McGraw-Hill telescope at the MDM observatory on Kitt Peak, Arizona, between 2009 December 10 and 13. All frames were bias corrected and flat fielded using standard routines in IRAF<sup>37</sup> (Barnes 1993), and instrumental magnitudes of RBS 0413 and six comparison stars in the same field of view were extracted using DAOPHOT (Massey & Davis 1992) within IRAF. Physical magnitudes were computed using the physical *R*-band magnitudes of the six comparison stars from the NOMAD catalog (Zacharias et al. 2005), assuming that the magnitudes quoted in that catalog are exact, then they were corrected for Galactic extinction using extinction coefficients calculated following Schlegel et al. (1998), taken from NED,<sup>38</sup> and converted into  $\nu F_{\nu}$  fluxes. The flux shows variations of up to  $\sim 30\%$  from day to day, with an average of  $(2.47 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-12} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . In the case of RBS 0413, the host galaxy is expected to make a substantial contribution to the observed *R*-band flux. We have taken this into account in our SED modeling by adding a phenomenological host galaxy SED to our model.

#### 6. MODELING AND DISCUSSION

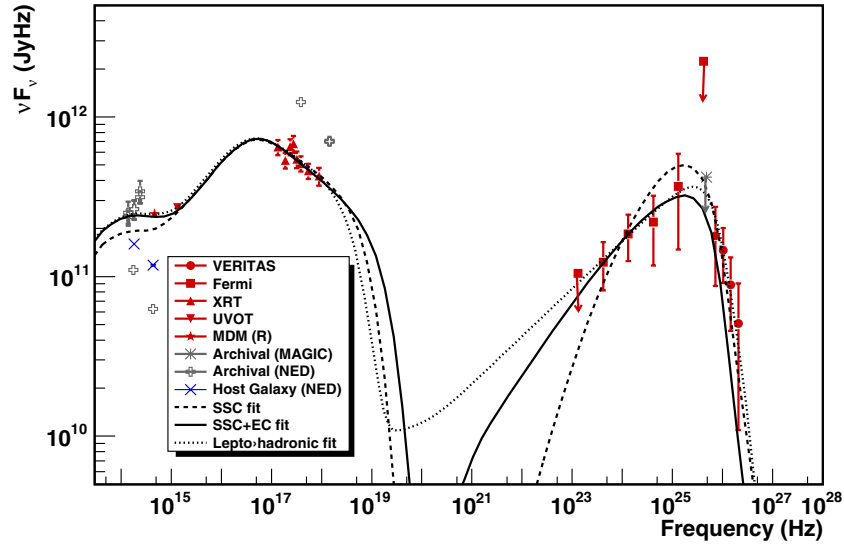
The non-thermal continuum of RBS 0413 exhibits a double-peaked shape, as is typical for blazars. In this study, we applied three different time-independent models to the observed SED, using the contemporaneous X-ray, UV, and optical (*R*-band) data to complement the *Fermi*-LAT and VERITAS observations (see Figure 3). It should be noted that these observations were not strictly simultaneous. For all of the models, the emission region was assumed to be a spherical blob of size  $R_b$ , moving within the jet with a bulk Lorentz factor  $\Gamma$ .  $R_b$  was constrained using the optical minimum variability timescale  $\log(\Delta t_{\text{min}}) = 3.75$  (Xiang & Dai 2007), where  $\Delta t_{\text{min}}$  is in units of seconds. The angle between the line of sight of the observer and the jet axis, represented by  $\theta_{\text{obs}}$ , was chosen to be equal to  $1/\Gamma$ . This is referred to as the critical or superluminal angle, for which the Doppler factor equals  $\Gamma$ . The synchrotron emission was assumed to originate from relativistic electrons with Lorentz factors distributed between  $\gamma_{\text{min}}$  and  $\gamma_{\text{max}}$ , following a power law with a spectral index  $q_e$ , under the influence of a magnetic field  $B$ . The particle-escape timescale is represented by  $t_{\text{esc}} = \eta_{\text{esc}} R_b / c$ , where  $\eta_{\text{esc}}$  is the particle-escape parameter. For each model, the parameters were adjusted to describe the data and achieve an equilibrium between the acceleration of the injected particles, the radiative cooling, and the particle escape. The best-fit parameters were used to calculate the relative partition between the magnetic field energy density and the kinetic luminosity of relativistic particles ( $\epsilon_{\text{Be,p}} \equiv L_B / L_{\text{e,p}}$ ) for each model. All model spectra were corrected for extragalactic background light (EBL) absorption using the model of Finke et al. (2010). For the

<sup>35</sup> The *phabs* tool applies absorption using photoelectric cross-sections.

<sup>36</sup> <http://heasarc.nasa.gov/docs/software/lheasoft/xanadu/xspec/XspecManual.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> IRAF is distributed by the National Optical Astronomy Observatory, which is operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) under cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation.

<sup>38</sup> <http://ned.ipac.caltech.edu/>



**Figure 3.** RBS 0413 spectral energy distribution. Absorption in the VHE region due to the EBL is taken into account in the fits using the model of Finke et al. (2010). The models are described in detail in the text.

(A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

**Table 3**  
Best-fit Parameters for the SED of RBS 0413 for the SSC, SSC+EC, and Lepto-hadronic Models

Parameter	Symbol	SSC	SSC+EC	Lepto-hadronic
Electron low-energy cutoff*	$\gamma_{\min}$	$7.0 \times 10^4$	$5.0 \times 10^4$	$4.5 \times 10^3$
Electron high-energy cutoff*	$\gamma_{\max}$	$1.0 \times 10^6$	$1.0 \times 10^6$	$5.0 \times 10^4$
Injection electron spectral index*	$q_e$	2.4	2.5	2.4
Escape-time parameter ( $t_{\text{esc}} = \eta_{\text{esc}} R_b / c$ )*	$\eta_{\text{esc}}$	10	300	100
Magnetic field (gauss)*	$B$	0.1	0.22	30.0
Bulk Lorentz factor*	$\Gamma$	20	20	15
Doppler factor	$D$	20	20	15
Blob radius ( $\times 10^{16}$ cm)*	$R_b$	1.1	1.6	0.5
Observing angle	$\theta_{\text{obs}}$	$2^\circ 87$	$2^\circ 87$	$3^\circ 82$
External radiation field $E$ density ( $\text{erg cm}^{-3}$ )*	$u_{\text{ext}}$	...	$6 \times 10^{-7}$	...
External radiation field BB temperature*	$T_{\text{ext}}$	...	$1.5 \times 10^3$ K	...
Proton spectrum low-energy cutoff (GeV)*	$E_{p,\min}$	...	...	$1.0 \times 10^3$
Proton spectrum high-energy cutoff (GeV)*	$E_{p,\max}$	...	...	$1.6 \times 10^{10}$
Spectral index of proton distribution*	$q_p$	...	...	2.4
Kinetic luminosity in protons ( $\text{erg s}^{-1}$ )*	$L_p$	...	...	$2.0 \times 10^{46}$
Kinetic luminosity in electrons ( $\text{erg s}^{-1}$ )*	$L_e(\text{jet})$	$2.97 \times 10^{43}$	$1.55 \times 10^{43}$	$6.26 \times 10^{40}$
Magnetic field energy density ( $\text{erg s}^{-1}$ )	$L_B(\text{jet})$	$1.82 \times 10^{42}$	$1.86 \times 10^{43}$	$1.90 \times 10^{46}$
Equipartition parameter	$\epsilon$	$\epsilon_{Be} = 0.06$	$\epsilon_{Be} = 1.20$	$\epsilon_{Bp} = 0.95$
Redshift	$z$	0.19	0.19	0.19

**Notes.** The parameters that were left free are marked with an asterisk.  $\theta_{\text{obs}}$  is the superluminal angle (see Section 6).

optical band, a phenomenological SED reproducing the archival host galaxy spectral points was added to the model.

The first model we applied assumed a pure SSC scenario. The magnetic field energy density required in this model is only 6% of the value corresponding to equipartition with the relativistic electron distribution ( $\epsilon_{Be} = 0.06$ ). The model spectrum is too hard in the *Fermi* band (strongly curved, with  $\Gamma \sim 1.5$  around  $10^{23}$  Hz) and too soft in the VERITAS band ( $\Gamma = 4.0$ ), albeit within the errors in both cases. On the other hand, while the X-ray measurements are well reproduced, the optical (*R*-band) spectrum is not.

Next, we tested a combined SSC+EC model. The external source of photons was assumed to be an isotropic thermal blackbody (BB) radiation field, which may be due to a torus of warm dust with a temperature of  $T_{\text{ext}} = 1.5 \times 10^3$  K. The assumed BB infrared (IR) radiation field corresponds to a  $\nu F_\nu$

flux of  $\sim 5 \times 10^8 \times R_{\text{pc}}^2$  Jy Hz, where  $R_{\text{pc}}$  is the characteristic size of the IR emitter in units of parsecs. It should be noted that this quantity is far below the measured IR flux, thus consistent with our observations. The addition of an EC component improves the modeling for the optical and *Fermi* data compared with the pure SSC model and leads to values for the model parameters which are very close to equipartition ( $\epsilon_{Be} = 1.20$ ). However, the model tends to have too sharp a cutoff in the VHE band and therefore underpredicts the VERITAS flux measurements. This could be remedied by choosing a much weaker magnetic field and higher electron energies, but the resulting system would then be very far from equipartition, with  $\epsilon_{Be}$  reduced by at least two orders of magnitude.

The last model we tested is a combined lepto-hadronic jet model as described in Böttcher (2010). In this case, the HE component of the non-thermal emission is dominated by a

combination of synchrotron radiation from ultrarelativistic protons ( $E_{\max} \gtrsim 10^{19}$  eV) and photons from the decay of neutral pions. Secondary electrons that are produced in various electromagnetic cascades are the origin of the low-energy synchrotron emission. The kinetic energy of the relativistic proton population was assumed to have a single power-law distribution in the energy range  $1.0 \times 10^3 \text{ GeV} < E_p < 1.6 \times 10^{10} \text{ GeV}$ , with a spectral index of  $q_p = 2.4$ . The model is a good description of the overall SED, and the system is close to equipartition between the magnetic field and the total relativistic particle content dominated by protons ( $\epsilon_{Bp} = 0.95$ ). As is typical for lepto-hadronic models, the acceleration of protons to ultrarelativistic energies ( $\sim 10^{10}$  GeV) requires a high magnetic field, 30 G in this case. Although the lepto-hadronic model provides the best description for the data, it has two more free parameters than the SSC+EC model and is therefore less constraining. The best-fit parameters adopted for all three models are summarized in Table 3.

Based on our calculations, all three models are good at describing the observed data. It appears that if the criterion of equipartition is taken as a reasonable measure of successful blazar emission models, SSC+EC is preferred over SSC for this HBL, which seems to be in contrast with some previous blazar studies. See Ghisellini et al. (1998) for arguments relating the presence of an EC component with the blazar sequence and Abdo et al. (2010a) for a discussion of issues encountered in explaining blazar SEDs with a simple one-zone homogeneous SSC model. On the other hand, we cannot discriminate between leptonic and lepto-hadronic mechanisms, since the SSC+EC and lepto-hadronic models provide equally reasonable descriptions for the observed non-thermal continuum, and we did not detect variability in the HE and VHE regimes given the limited statistics. Since the synchrotron cooling timescales for electrons and protons are different, the detection of intraday variability would be harder to explain with a lepto-hadronic scenario and would accordingly favor a purely leptonic scenario. Therefore, any future observation of rapid variability would be helpful in distinguishing between the SSC+EC and lepto-hadronic models.

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*Facilities:* VERITAS, *Fermi*

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