

RELATIVISTIC FLOWS IN THE GALAXY

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(superluminal motion) have been inferred in a num-

ber of distant quasars and active galactic nuclei, but the extreme distance of these extragalactic sources introduced many uncertainties into the interpretation of the superluminal phenomenon. I will present the observations of the first superluminal sources detected within our own Galaxy. This discovery has astrophysical implications related to: 1) the expansion of the Universe, 2) the physics of relativistic ejections, 3) the nature of gamma-ray bursters, and 4) a new method to determine distances in astronomy. The recent infrared observations of the superluminal source GRS 1915+105, and its comparison with the high mass binary SS433 will be discussed.

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