

Simultaneous multi-wavelength flare observations of EV Lacertae Rishi R. Paudel*, Thomas Barclay, Joshua E. Schlieder, Elisa V. Quintana, Emily Gilbert, Allison Youngblood, Daniel Huber, EV Lac Consortium

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Abstract

We acquired data of nearby dM3.5e star EV Lac using 5 different observatories: NASA's TESS mission, NASA's Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory (Swift), NASA's Neutron Interior Composition Explorer (NICER) and two ground based telescopes (University of Hawaii 2.2-m (UH88) and Las Cumbres Observatory Global Telescope (LCOGT) Network), to span a comprehensive, simultaneous wavelength coverage of flaring events. We identified 56 flares in the TESS light curve, 9 flares in the Swift UVM2 light curve, 14 flares in the NICER X-ray light curve, and 1 flare in the LCOGT light curve. However, we did not identify flares in the Swift XRT light curve or UH88 spectrum. We compare flare frequency distribution (FFD) of flares observed by TESS, NICER and Swift/UVOT. We find that the FFDs of TESS and NICER flares have comparable slopes, $\beta_T = -0.67 \pm 0.09$ and $\beta_N = -0.64 \pm 0.19$, and that the FFD of UVOT flares has a shallower slope ($\beta_U = -0.38 \pm 0.13$).

About EV Lacertae (GJ 873, LHS 3853)

- ► It is a young dM3.5e star at a distance of only 5.05 pc.
- ▶ Its age is estimated to be in the range of 125 800 Myr.
- \blacktriangleright It has very strong magnetic field of \sim 4 kG, and covers >50% of the stellar surface.



It is known to produce flares frequently in X-ray, UV, optical and radio wavelengths.

TESS light curve



Figure: TESS light curve obtained during Sector 16 (11 Sep, 2019 - 07 Oct, 2019). The top panel shows the raw light curve (black) and spot rotation fit (green). The middle panel shows the detrended light curve after subtracting the variable feature induced by spots. We overplot flare model (pink). The bottom panel shows the residual plot obtained after subtracting both rotation and flare model from raw light curve. We identify 56 flares in this light curve.

Figure: Swift/UVOT observed 9 flares during an exposure time of \sim 40 ks. The blue dots in each plot represent the observed fluxes and the red line is just the connecting line. The time in the X-axis is centered at T_0 which is the TESS time when a given flare started. The cadence size is 11.033 s. One of the flares (U8) whose decay only phase was observed is not shown here.

Comparison of FFDs in X-ray, UV and optical wavelengths



NICER X-ray light curve



Figure: NICER X-ray light curve of EV Lac obtained simultaneously with TESS. The total exposure time is \sim 100 ks. We identify 14 flares in this light curve, but none of them were observed for full duration. In this light curve, some events have single point brightening or are due to background signal. The black dashed horizontal line corresponds to the quiescent level (M_N) , and the red dashed line corresponds to $M_N+2.5\sigma$ value of count rate.

Swift X-ray light curve

Figure: Comparison of FFDs of flares observed by TESS (red), NICER (blue), and Swift/UVOT (purple). The dashed lines represent the fitted line corresponding to the power-law distribution of flares in a given band. The NICER X-ray flare energies are just the lower limits because the flares were not observed for full duration.

Conclusions

► We identified 56 white light flares in the TESS light curve, with estimated energies in the range log $E_{\rm T}$ (erg) = (30.9 - 33.6). We identified 9 UV flares in the Swift/UVOT light curve, with estimated energies in the range log E_{UV} (erg) = (29.3 - 31.1). 3 of the UV flares were not observed for full duration. Likewise, we identified 14 X-ray flares in the NICER light curve, with estimated minimum energies in the range log E_N (erg) = (30.5 - 32.7). We also identified 1 flare in the LCOGT light curve, which has an estimated energy of log E_L (erg) = 31.6. ▶ We did not identify flares in *Swift* X-ray light curve and UH88 spectrum.



Figure: Swift XRT lightcurve of EV Lac obtained simultanously with TESS. The cadence size is 120 s and the total exposure time is \sim 40 ks. The black and red dashed lines correspond to median and median $+1\sigma$ count rate. We cannot confirm that the increase in X-ray level at $t \sim 1749.3$ d is due to a flare.

► Using least-squares fitting, we find that the FFDs of TESS and NICER flares have comparable slopes, $\beta_T = -0.67 \pm 0.09$ and $\beta_N = -0.64 \pm 0.19$, and that the FFD of UVOT flares has a shallower slope ($\beta_U = -0.38 \pm 0.13$.

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