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1 **Searching for γ -ray blazar candidates among the unidentified *INTEGRAL*** 2 **sources**

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9 **ABSTRACT**

10 The identification of low-energy counterparts for γ -ray sources is one of the biggest challenge in modern γ -ray astronomy. Recently, we developed and successfully applied a new association method to recognize γ -ray blazar candidates that could be possible counterparts for the unidentified γ -ray sources above 100 MeV in the second *Fermi* Large Area Telescope (LAT) catalog (2FGL). This method is based on the Infrared (IR) colors of the recent Wide-Field Infrared Survey Explorer (*WISE*) all-sky survey. In this letter we applied our new association method to the case of unidentified *INTEGRAL* sources (UISs) listed in the fourth soft gamma-ray source catalog (4IC). Only 86 UISs out of the 113 can be analyzed, due to the sky coverage of the *WISE* Preliminary data release. Among these 86 UISs, we found that 18 appear to have a γ -ray blazar candidate within their positional error region. Finally, we analyzed the *Swift* archival data available for 10 out these 18 γ -ray blazar candidates, and we found that 7 out of 10 are clearly detected in soft X-rays and/or in the optical-ultraviolet band. We cannot confirm the associations between the UISs and the selected γ -ray blazar candidates due to the discrepancies between the *INTEGRAL* and the soft X-ray spectra. However, the discovery of the soft X-ray counterparts for the selected γ -ray blazar candidates adds an important clue to help understand their origin and to confirm their blazar nature.

11 *Subject headings:* galaxies: active - galaxies: BL Lacertae objects - radiation mecha-
12 nisms: non-thermal

1. Introduction

13

14 One of the main scientific objectives of the *INTEGRAL* mission is performing a survey of
 15 the sky in a mostly unexplored region of the electromagnetic spectrum: from the hard X-ray to
 16 the soft γ -ray band. Since its launch in October 2002, *INTEGRAL* has used the unprecedented
 17 imaging capabilities of IBIS (Imager on Board INTEGRAL Spacecraft: ?) coupled with those of
 18 ISGRI (INTEGRAL Soft Gamma-Ray Imager; ?). Combining data from these two instruments,
 19 it is possible to generate images of the sky with a 12 arcmin (Full Width Half Maximum, FWHM)
 20 resolution with typical source location accuracy of ~ 1 -3 arcmin over a ~ 19 degree (FWHM) field
 21 of view in the energy range 17–1000 keV.

22 The fourth soft γ -ray source catalog¹ (?) (hereinafter 4IC) obtained with the IBIS γ -ray
 23 imager on board the *INTEGRAL* satellite lists 723 hard X-ray/soft γ -ray sources. In particular,
 24 the 4IC substantially increased the extragalactic sky coverage including both transients and faint
 25 persistent objects that can only be revealed with long exposure observations (?).

26 Several observations at low energies have been already performed to decrease the number
 27 of the unidentified *INTEGRAL* objects (UIs) (see e.g., ???, for optical and X-ray observations
 28 of UIs); however, a considerable fraction of the 4IC sources are still completely unidentified.
 29 According to the 4IC, there are 113 UIs, corresponding to about 16% of the whole catalog, and
 30 178 other sources have uncertain classification. The largest fraction (i.e., 35%) of the associated
 31 *INTEGRAL* sources are Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN), compared to 31% identified as Galactic
 32 sources (?). For comparison, the 58-month catalog of observations with the BAT hard X-ray
 33 detector ² on board the *Swift* observatory, lists 1092 objects detected in the 14-195 keV energy
 34 range, with 86 unidentified hard X-ray sources listed (??).

35 Recently, using the *WISE* all-sky IR survey, we discovered that blazars, the largest known
 36 γ -ray class of AGN, can be separated from other extragalactic sources using IR colors (?, here-
 37 inafter Paper I). We used the magnitudes of the recent *WISE* IR all-sky survey performed at 3.4,
 38 4.6, 12, and 22 μ m with an angular resolution of 6.1, 6.4, 6.5 & 12.0 arcsec and with 5σ point
 39 source sensitivities achieving 0.08, 0.11, 1 and 6 mJy, in unconfused regions on the ecliptic, re-
 40 spectively. The absolute (radial) differences between *WISE* source-peaks and “true” astrometric
 41 positions anywhere on the sky are no larger than ~ 0.50 , 0.26, 0.26, and 1.4 arcsec in the four
 42 *WISE* bands, respectively (?)³.

¹<http://irfu.cea.fr/Sap/IGR-Sources/>

²<http://heasarc.nasa.gov/docs/swift/results/bs58mon/>

³http://wise2.ipac.caltech.edu/docs/release/prelim/expsup/sec2_3g.html

43 Moreover, we investigated a sample of blazars detected by *WISE* and associated with *Fermi-*
 44 *LAT* sources to characterize their IR- γ -ray properties (?, hereinafter Paper II). This was the first
 45 step to develop a new association method for the unidentified γ -ray sources, able to recognize if
 46 there is a γ -ray blazar candidate within their positional error region (??, hereinafter Paper III and
 47 Paper IV, respectively). With this new IR diagnostic tool, we searched for γ -ray blazar candidates
 48 within the unidentified γ -ray source sample of the 2FGL γ -ray catalog, and for the first time we
 49 have been able to provide a candidate counterpart for 187 out of 313 unidentified γ -ray sources
 50 analyzed, having the same IR properties as the γ -ray emitting blazars (see Paper IV).

51 In this letter, we apply this association procedure to test whether there is a possible γ -ray
 52 blazar candidate for the UISs using their *WISE* IR colors. For the selected γ -ray blazar candidates,
 53 we also search *Swift* pointed observations for the presence of an optical-UV and/or X-ray counter-
 54 part. This letter is organized as follows: in Section ?? we describe the UIS sample selected for our
 55 investigation; in Section ?? we illustrate the basic details of our new association method, that, in
 56 Section ??, we apply to the UISs. Section ?? is devoted to the optical-UV-X-ray counterparts in
 57 the *Swift* observations available. Our results are discussed in Section ??.

58 2. The sample selection

59 In the 4IC there are 113 sources that are completely unidentified (i.e., Type =?, according to
 60 Table 3 in ?), while there are 97 sources that are indicated as unidentified transients (i.e., Type
 61 =?,T, according to Table 3 in ?). In addition, within the 4IC, there are also 32 AGN sources of
 62 uncertain type (i.e., Type =AGN? ?) and another 49 objects with uncertain classification.

63 In this letter, we only considered the 86 UISs out of 113 listed in the 4IC that lie in the portion
 64 of the sky covered by the *WISE* Preliminary Source catalog.

65 3. The WGS association method

66 In Paper III, using a subsample of the ROMA-BZCAT blazar catalog (???), detected by *WISE*
 67 and associated with *Fermi-LAT* sources (Papers II and III), we presented the parametrization of
 68 the *WISE* γ -ray strip (*WGS*) based on the *strip parameter* s . This parameter, ranging between 0
 69 - 1, provides an estimate of the distance between the *WGS* and the location of a generic *WISE*
 70 source in the IR color parameter space, and it is weighted for the errors on all the IR colors. We
 71 distinguished between *WISE* sources that lie in the subregion of the *WGS* occupied by the BZBs
 72 and BZQs using the s_b and s_q parameters separately (Paper III).

73 In Paper IV, we presented the association method based on the *WGS* parametrization. For each
 74 unidentified γ -ray source we defined the *searching region* corresponding to a circular region of
 75 radius R equal to the semi-major axis of the elliptical source location region at 99.999% confidence
 76 level, centered on the γ -ray position given in the 2FGL catalog(?).

77 We calculate the IR colors for every *WISE* source that lies within the *searching region* as well
 78 as their s_b and s_q parameters. Given the distributions of generic *WISE* sources in random regions
 79 of the sky, we distinguish three classes of γ -ray blazar candidates on the basis of their s_b and/or s_q
 80 values:

- 81 • class A: *WISE* sources with $0.24 < s_b < 1.00$ and $0.38 < s_q < 1.00$;
- 82 • class B: *WISE* sources with $0.24 < s_b < 1.00$ or $0.38 < s_q < 1.00$;
- 83 • class C: *WISE* sources with $0.10 < s_b < 0.24$ and $0.14 < s_q < 0.38$.

84 All the *WISE* sources with $s_b < 0.10$ or $s_q < 0.14$ are considered *outliers* of the *WGS*. Sources of
 85 class A are the rarest with respect to the other classes (Paper IV).

86 Our association procedure consists in ranking all the *WISE* sources within the *searching region*
 87 of an unidentified γ -ray source as described above and indicating as a γ -ray blazar candidate the
 88 positionally closest source belonging to the highest class. Our association procedure provides
 89 a completeness of 87% based on the *a posteriori* re-association of the ROMA-BZCAT blazars,
 90 detected by *WISE* and associated with *Fermi*-LAT sources.

91 **4. γ -ray blazar candidates among the unidentified *INTEGRAL* sources**

92 We applied our new association method to the case of the 86 UISs selected above. This
 93 process allows us to verify if there is a γ -ray blazar candidate within the positional error region of
 94 each UIS analyzed.

95 We considered a *searching region* with radius equal to the position error at 90% confidence
 96 level, as reported in the 4IC catalog; then, we estimated the IR *WISE* colors for all the sources that
 97 lie within the *searching region*.

98 Running our association procedure, we found that 68 out of 86 UISs have only outliers of
 99 the *WGS* lying in their *searching regions*, while within the remaining 18 UISs we found 4 γ -ray
 100 blazar candidates of class A, 12 of class B and 2 of class C. In Table 1, we present the list of
 101 γ -ray blazar candidates found for the 18 UISs together with their IR colors, as well as the s_b and
 102 s_q parameters. We also estimated the probability to find a generic *WISE* source with the same s

103 values in 36 random circular regions of the *WISE* sky having the same radius R of the *searching*
104 *regions*. We found that this is smaller than 10^{-4} . We note that the positional accuracy of the UISS
105 is a least order of magnitude better than that of the unidentified γ -ray sources in 2FGL.

106 Summarizing our results, we found 18 *WISE* γ -ray blazar candidates that could be candi-
107 date counterparts of the corresponding UISS responsible for the hard X-ray emission detected by
108 *INTEGRAL*.

109 5. γ -ray blazar candidates observed by *Swift*

110 We found that among the γ -ray blazars selected according to our association procedure, 10
111 candidates out of 18 have at least one *Swift* pointed observation. In addition, none of these γ -
112 ray blazar candidates has a γ -ray counterpart in the 2FGL. We reduced and analyzed these *Swift*
113 observations to verify if these *WISE* γ -ray blazar candidates have an optical-UV or soft X-ray
114 counterpart. Here we report the data reduction and analysis procedures used in our *Swift* data
115 analysis. The comparison between the *Swift* and the *WISE* images will be presented in Section ??.

116 5.1. UVOT data analysis

117 We followed the same UV-Optical Telescope (UVOT) reduction procedure described in (??)
118 consequently, here we report only the basic details.

119 Several filter combinations are available for UVOT observations; however, we note that not all
120 the optical and UV data are available for each source. The detection algorithm *UVOTDETECT*
121 was used to confirm the presence of the optical-UV counterpart of the γ -ray blazar candidates. We
122 then performed the photometric analysis using the *UVOTSOURCE* tool. Counts were extracted
123 from a $6''$ radius aperture in the V , B , and U filters and from a $12''$ radius aperture for the other
124 UV filters ($UVW1$, $UVM2$, and $UVW2$), to properly take into account the wider Point Spread
125 Function in these bandpasses. The count rate was corrected for coincidence loss, and the back-
126 ground subtraction was performed by estimating its level in an offset circular region at $20''$ from
127 the source.

128 The correction for the interstellar reddening was obtained assuming the $E(B - V)$ values
129 from Schlegel et al. (1998) and the corrections described in Cardelli et al. (1989), while the fluxes
130 were derived with the same conversion factors given by Giommi et al. (2006).

5.2. XRT data analysis

The X-Ray Telescope (XRT) data reduction used in the following is also the same one described in (???); here we only report the basic details.

The XRT data analysis has been performed with the *XRTDAS* software (v. 2.1), developed at the ASI Science Data Center (ASDC) and distributed within the HEASOFT package (v. 6.10.0).

Event files were calibrated and cleaned with standard filtering criteria using the XRTPIPELINE task, combined with the latest calibration files available in the *Swift CALDB* distributed by HEASARC. Only events in the energy range 0.3–10 keV with grades 0–12 were used. When more than a single *Swift* pointing of each source has been performed and is available within the *Swift* archive, we combined several low S/N observations, because the the co-added X-ray image increases significantly the source detection. No signatures of pile-up were found in our XRT observations.

Given the low exposure of the *Swift* observations it was not possible to carry out a detailed spectral analysis, so unless stated otherwise we used the detection algorithm *detect*, a tool of the *XIMAGE* package for all the *Swift* observations. The *detect* algorithm locates the X-ray point sources using a sliding-cell method taking into account the average background intensity. The position and intensity of each detected source is calculated using a box whose size maximizes the signal-to-noise ratio. This detection algorithm has been extensively used in the Swift serendipitous survey in deep XRT gamma-ray burst fields (see also ?, for additional details). Statistical and systematic uncertainties on count rates are added quadratically.

Finally, we measured the net count rates for each detected soft X-ray source and we converted them into fluxes assuming a power-law spectrum with spectral index 1 and using WEBPIMMS⁴.

6. Results on the *Swift* analysis

Applying our new association procedure developed for the unidentified γ -ray sources of *Fermi*-LAT to the UISS, we found that 18 sources out of the 86 analyzed have a γ -ray blazar candidate as possible counterparts. We note that this new association method proposed for the unidentified γ -ray sources of *Fermi*-LAT does not have the same efficiency when applied to soft γ -rays and/or hard X-rays. In fact, in the *Fermi*-LAT energy range (i.e., 30 MeV - 10 GeV) blazars are the largest known γ -ray population (?), while the hard X-ray band is generally dominated by the emission of different classes of AGN, such as Seyfert galaxies, which constitute $\sim 24\%$ in

⁴<http://heasarc.nasa.gov/Tools/w3pimms.html>

161 comparison with the 2.4% for blazars already associated in the 4IC. This implies that the *WISE*
 162 γ -ray blazar candidates are not necessarily the low-energy counterparts of the UISs.

163 The relation between the IR spectral shape in the *WISE* energy range and that in the γ -rays
 164 is based on our association method (e.g., Paper II). On the other hand, in hard X-rays there is not
 165 yet evidence of a correlation between the IR and the X-ray emission of blazars, thus the eventual
 166 association between the *WISE* γ -ray blazar candidate and the UISs is less robust than in the case of
 167 the *Fermi*-LAT sources.

168 For 10 out of the 18 *WISE* γ -ray blazar candidates, we also found optical-UV and X-ray ob-
 169 servations available in the *Swift* archive that could be helpful to verify if they are the low-energy
 170 counterparts of the UISs. We found that 7 out of the 10 *WISE* γ -ray blazar candidates in the *Swift*
 171 archive have a clear counterpart in X-rays and in the optical-UV bands, showing a typical Spec-
 172 tral Energy Distribution (SED) dominated by non-thermal emission, as for the two cases shown
 173 in Figure ??, where J035651.52+624553.8 has also a radio counterpart at 1.12 arcsec from the
 174 *WISE* position. In Table 1, we report the *INTEGRAL* name together with the *WISE* γ -ray blazar
 175 candidates, the J2000 coordinates RA and DEC, the distance between the *WISE* source and the
 176 *INTEGRAL* position in arcsec, the *WISE* colors (i.e., $c_{12} = [3.4] - [4.6]$, $c_{23} = [4.6] - [12]$,
 177 $c_{23} = [12] - [22]$), the s_b and the s_q derived from our *WGS* method, the *Swift* UVOT detections and
 178 the *Swift* XRT detections with the X-ray counts in the soft (0.3-1 keV) and in the hard (i.e., 1-10
 179 keV) bands together with the X-ray hardness ratio HR derived from the net number of counts.

180 For remaining three *WISE* γ -ray blazar candidates we did not find a clear counterpart in *Swift*
 181 observations. This result could be due to the short exposures of the archival observations.

182 However, we note that in the above 10 candidates, the *Swift* XRT flux is not in agreement with
 183 the extrapolation of the *INTEGRAL* spectrum, which is generally one order of magnitude larger
 184 than the *Swift* XRT estimate. This discrepancy is not sufficient to exclude the blazar association
 185 of the UISs because blazars exhibit rapid X-ray variability; however, it could suggest that the
 186 blazar is not the most probable low-energy counterpart for the UISs, in agreement with the fact
 187 that they are not the dominant class of AGN in the hard X-rays. We note that the γ -ray blazar
 188 candidates found with our method are *WISE* sources, detected in all four *WISE* bands, in particular
 189 at 22 μm as the case of IGRJ14549–6459 shown in Figure ??, for which the *WISE* candidate
 190 counterpart appear to have the IR colors of blazars.

191 In Figure ?? and Figure ??, we also show the comparison between the soft X-ray and the
 192 optical-UV images of *Swift* with the *WISE* IR data, for the FOV of two examples of UISs cen-
 193 tered on the positions of our γ -ray blazar candidates: IGRJ06523+5334 and IGRJ13045–5630,
 194 respectively.

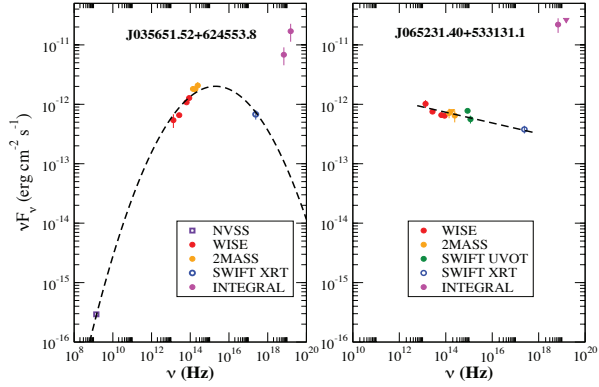


Fig. 1.— The SEDs of two example of *WISE* γ -ray blazar candidates: J035651.52+624553.8 and J065231.40+533131.1. The dashed line in the left panel is the typical log-parabolic model adopted to describe the non-thermal SED of J035651.52+624553.8 while in the case of J065231.40+533131.1 a simple power-law, over 6 orders of magnitude, has been used. As described in Section ?? there is discrepancy between the XRT fluxes and those of *INTEGRAL* that do not support the blazar association of the UIS.

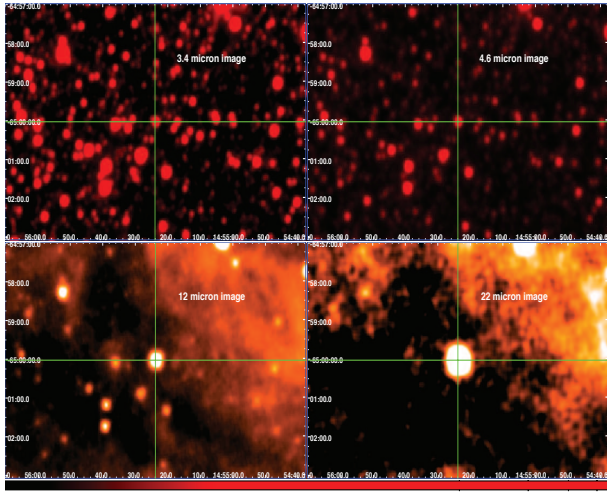


Fig. 2.— The *WISE* IR images at $3.4\mu\text{m}$, $4.6\mu\text{m}$, $12\mu\text{m}$, $22\mu\text{m}$, respectively for the Field of View (FOV) for IGRJ14549–6459, centered on the position of the γ -ray blazar candidate. The *WISE* γ -ray blazar candidate is highlighted with the green cross in the center of the *WISE* images. It is clear that the source selected with our association method is the only one detected in all 4 *WISE* bands.

7. Summary

195

196 We applied our new association method successfully used for the unidentified γ -ray sources
197 in the 2FGL to the UISs to test if it is possible to find *WISE* blazar counterparts at low energies
198 responsible for the hard X-ray emission detected by *INTEGRAL* within the *searching regions* of the
199 UISs.

200 We found that 18 out of 86 UISs analyzed clearly have a blazar counterpart within the *search-*
201 *ing regions*, and for 10 of them also *Swift* archival observations are available. However, for the
202 latter 10 sources in *Swift* we did not find a good agreement between the *Swift* X-ray flux and the
203 one estimated by the extrapolation of the *INTEGRAL* spectrum. Thus, we are not able to confirm
204 if the *WISE* γ -ray blazar candidates found with our method could be associated with the UISs
205 considered.

206 On the other hand, one crucial result arises from our analysis. We found that the *WISE* γ -ray
207 blazar candidates selected from our method in these serendipitous *Swift* observations of the UIS
208 fields of view have clear optical and/or UV and soft X-ray counterparts. This is strongly in agree-
209 ment with the expectations driven by their blazar nature. It is worth noting that J035651.52+624553.8
210 has also a radio counterpart and in addition, the SEDs of these *WISE* γ -ray blazar candidates are
211 in agreement with a non-thermal shape over several orders of magnitude.

212 Finally, we remark that future follow up observations, in particular spectroscopic optical data,
213 are necessary to clarify the nature of the *WISE* γ -ray blazar candidates and consequently the nature
214 of the UISs (see e.g., ???).

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⁵<http://www.star.bris.ac.uk/~mbt/topcat/>

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<i>INTEGRAL</i> name	<i>WISE</i> name	RA (deg)	DEC (deg)	distance arcsec	c_1	c_2	c_3	s_b	s_q	UVOT/ XRT detec.	counts 0.3-1 keV	counts 1-10 keV
class A sources												
IGRJ04442+0450	J044415.86+045126.6	71.07	4.86	88.17	1.17(0.03)	3.06(0.03)	2.81(0.05)	0.43	0.75	-	-	-
IGRJ06523+5334	J065231.40+533131.3	103.13	53.53	219.42	1.02(0.04)	3.01(0.06)	2.45(0.13)	0.30	0.43	n/y	18	41
IGRJ14549-6459	J145523.80-650002.5	223.85	-65.00	212.20	1.09(0.03)	2.71(0.03)	2.43(0.03)	0.91	0.92	n/y	-	38
IGRJ16413-4046	J164122.31-404714.5	250.34	-40.79	28.13	0.73(0.04)	2.05(0.03)	1.36(0.03)	0.94	0.39	n/n	-	-
class B sources												
IGRJ03502-2605	J035018.94-260423.6	57.58	-26.07	116.77	1.12(0.04)	2.51(0.07)	2.33(0.22)	0.26	0.31	n/y	10	2
IGRJ03564+6242	J035651.52+624553.8	59.21	62.76	264.69	0.87(0.04)	2.40(0.06)	1.93(0.22)	0.35	0.17	n/y	19	12
IGRJ07225-3810	J072228.14-381457.6	110.62	-38.25	293.05	1.06(0.05)	2.68(0.09)	1.89(0.20)	0.26	0.24	-	-	-
IGRJ13045-5630	J130431.77-563058.5	196.13	-56.52	58.56	0.94(0.03)	3.30(0.03)	2.71(0.03)	0.00	0.69	n/y	4	40
IGRJ13107-5626	J131037.06-562654.3	197.65	-56.45	29.06	1.29(0.03)	2.78(0.03)	2.26(0.04)	0.00	0.84	-	-	-
IGRJ15293-5609	J152900.40-560830.4	232.25	-56.14	149.87	0.82(0.06)	2.44(0.06)	2.39(0.07)	0.43	0.29	-	-	-
IGRJ15311-3737	J153051.78-373457.1	232.72	-37.58	211.38	0.87(0.03)	2.17(0.03)	2.05(0.06)	0.70	0.29	y/y	45	220
IGRJ16560-4958	J165551.96-495732.3	253.97	-49.96	59.51	0.75(0.05)	2.28(0.04)	2.05(0.08)	0.52	0.22	-	-	-
IGRJ17314-2854	J173111.38-285701.8	262.80	-28.95	180.76	0.34(0.03)	1.25(0.02)	0.88(0.03)	0.00	0.44	-	-	-
IGRJ17448-3232	J174440.89-323155.8	266.17	-32.53	89.35	0.64(0.04)	1.88(0.03)	1.19(0.05)	0.45	0.30	n/n	-	-
IGRJ19552+0044	J195504.07+004421.0	298.77	0.74	106.47	1.04(0.05)	2.72(0.08)	2.18(0.25)	0.29	0.29	-	-	-
IGRJ20450+7530	J204522.41+753057.4	311.34	75.52	90.73	0.87(0.04)	2.29(0.08)	2.30(0.29)	0.27	0.16	y/y	17	52
class C sources												
IGRJ13550-7218	J135453.52-721422.4	208.72	-72.24	217.52	1.12(0.07)	2.49(0.10)	2.37(0.28)	0.17	0.22	n/n	-	-
IGRJ16388+3557	J163901.61+355510.7	249.76	35.92	200.60	1.07(0.05)	2.75(0.10)	2.64(0.26)	0.19	0.23	-	-	-

Col. (1) *INTEGRAL* name

Col. (2) *WISE* blazar candidates

Cols. (3, 4) the J2000 coordinates RA and DEC

Col. (5) the distance between the *WISE* source and the *INTEGRAL* position in arcseconds

Cols. (6,7,8) the *WISE* colors (i.e., $c_1 = [3.4] - [4.6]$, $c_2 = [4.6] - [12]$, $c_3 = [12] - [22]$); the 1σ errors are reported in parenthesis.

Cols. (9,10) the s_b and the s_q derived from our WGS method

Cols. (11,12) the *Swift* UVOT detections and the *Swift* XRT detections

Cols. (13,14) the X-ray counts in the soft (0.3-1 keV) and in the hard (i.e., 1-10 keV) band, respectively

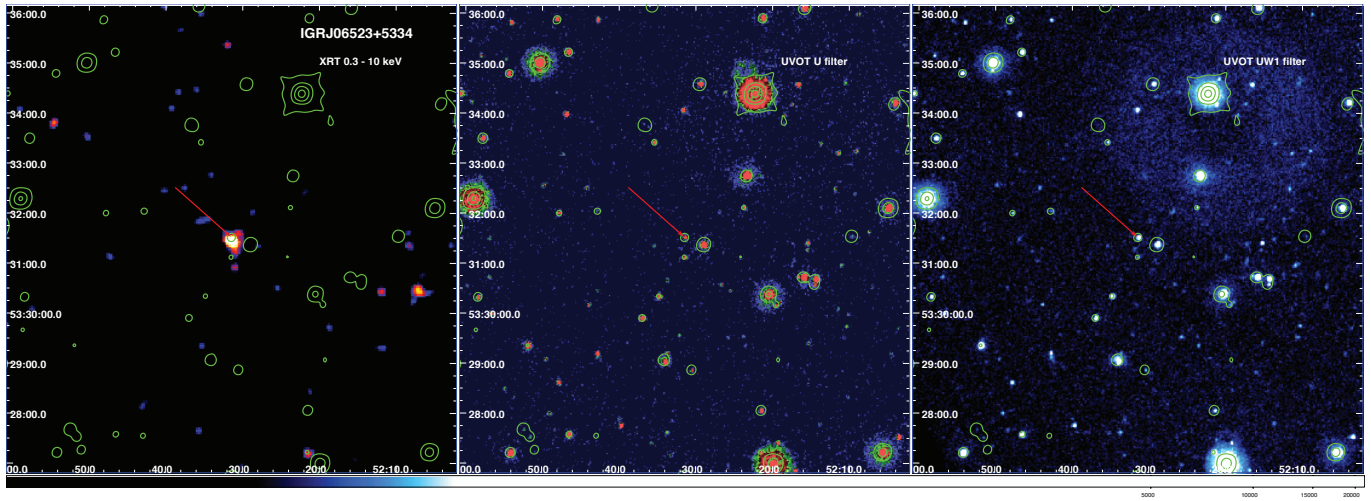


Fig. 3.— The *WISE* 3.4 μm IR contours (green) overlaid on the *Swift* optical-UV and X-ray images, for the FOV of IGRJ06523+5334, centered on the position of the selected *WISE* blazar candidate. It is clear that the *WISE* blazar candidate (red arrow) has a clear counterpart in the soft X-rays and in the optical-UV bands.

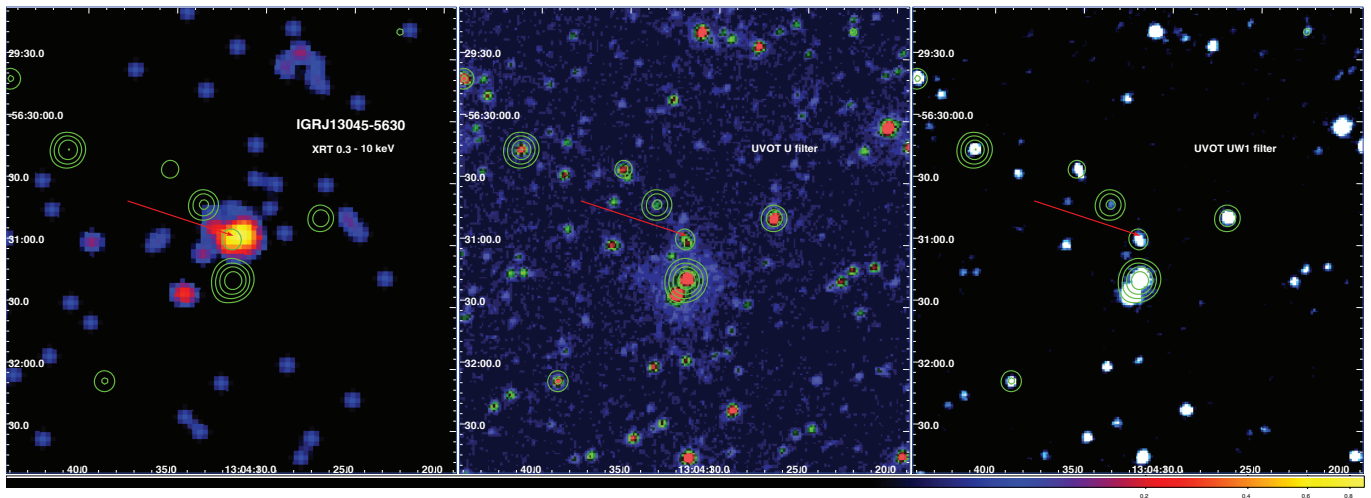


Fig. 4.— Same of Figure ?? for the IGRJ 13045–5630 FOV.