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# The Fourth Catalog of Active Galactic Nuclei Detected by the *Fermi* Large Area Telescope

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## Abstract

The fourth catalog of active galactic nuclei (AGNs) detected by the *Fermi* Gamma-ray Space Telescope Large Area Telescope (4LAC) between 2008 August 4 and 2016 August 2 contains 2863 objects located at high Galactic latitudes ( $|b| > 10^\circ$ ). It includes 85% more sources than the previous 3LAC catalog based on 4 yr of data. AGNs represent at least 79% of the high-latitude sources in the fourth *Fermi*-Large Area Telescope Source Catalog (4FGL), which covers the energy range from 50 MeV to 1 TeV. In addition, 344 gamma-ray AGNs are found at low Galactic latitudes. Most of the 4LAC AGNs are blazars (98%), while the remainder are other types of AGNs. The blazar population consists of 24% Flat Spectrum Radio Quasars (FSRQs), 38% BL Lac-type objects, and 38% blazar candidates of unknown types (BCUs). On average, FSRQs display softer spectra and stronger variability in the gamma-ray band than BL Lacs do, confirming previous findings. All AGNs detected by ground-based atmospheric Cerenkov telescopes are also found in the 4LAC.

*Unified Astronomy Thesaurus concepts:* Active galactic nuclei (16); Blazars (164); Gamma-ray sources (633); Relativistic jets (1390); Quasars (1319); BL Lacertae objects (158)

*Supporting material:* machine-readable tables

## 1. Introduction

Thanks to its broad energy range, excellent sensitivity, and all-sky monitoring capabilities, the *Fermi* Gamma-ray Space Telescope Large Area Telescope (LAT) has revolutionized our view of the gamma-ray sky. The fourth *Fermi*-LAT source catalog (4FGL, The *Fermi*-LAT collaboration 2020), based on the first 8 yr of data from the mission, contains 5064 sources in the energy range 50 MeV to 1 TeV.

The fourth catalog of active galactic nuclei (AGNs) detected by the LAT (4LAC), presented here, is derived from the 4FGL catalog. At high Galactic latitudes, AGNs represent by far the dominant class of gamma-ray sources in the 4FGL. The vast majority of these AGNs are of the blazar type, which are characterized by having relativistic jets closely aligned with our line of sight. The two main classes of blazars are Flat Spectrum Radio Quasars (FSRQs) and BL Lac-type objects (BL Lacs), distinguished according to the strength of their optical emission lines. FSRQs have strong, broad emission lines, while BL Lacs have weak, narrow, or no such lines. In addition to the improvements of the 4FGL relative to previous gamma-ray catalogs, the 4LAC has benefited from updated methods of associating gamma-ray AGNs

with those known at other wavelengths. The 4LAC supersedes the third catalog of AGNs detected by the LAT (3LAC; Ackermann et al. 2015), which was based on 4 yr of data.

Gamma-ray AGN catalogs constitute unique resources for a broad range of astrophysics research. Recent applications include: population studies probing the BL Lac-FSRQ dichotomy (e.g., Ghisellini et al. 2017; Nalewajko & Gupta 2017); works on individual sources investigating the connections between gamma-ray loudness and brightness/polarization at other observational bands (e.g., Angelakis et al. 2016; Lico et al. 2017; Massaro et al. 2017; Fan & Wu 2018; Zargaryan et al. 2018); timing correlations between activity in the gamma-ray band and other wavelengths (e.g., Fuhrmann et al. 2016; Itoh et al. 2016); and tests of the possible link between gamma-ray AGNs and sources of ultra high-energy cosmic rays (e.g., Kagaya et al. 2017) or high-energy neutrinos (e.g., Padovani et al. 2016; Aartsen et al. 2017; Garrappa et al. 2019). These catalogs also enable probes of the extragalactic background light (EBL; e.g., Abdollahi et al. 2018) and the intergalactic magnetic field (e.g., Ackermann et al. 2018; Broderick et al. 2018), along with a measurement of the AGN contribution to the extragalactic diffuse gamma-ray background (e.g., Fornasa et al. 2016; Di Mauro et al. 2018).

The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 briefly describes the observations by the LAT and the analysis employed to

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produce the eight-year catalog. In Section 3, we present the methods for associating gamma-ray sources with AGN counterparts and the different schemes for classifying them. Section 4 describes the contents of the 4LAC fits table and gives the statistics of the blazar and nonblazar populations. This section also includes a brief presentation of low-latitude ( $|b| < 10^\circ$ ) AGNs, which do not formally belong to the 4LAC. Some of the basic properties of the catalog sources are given in S5, along with a discussion of the overlap with the AGNs detected at very high energies (VHE; energies above 100 GeV) by atmospheric Cerenkov telescopes. Section 6 summarizes our findings.

In the following, we use a  $\Lambda$ CDM cosmology with values from the *Planck* results (Planck Collaboration et al. 2014); in particular, we use  $h = 0.67$ ,  $\Omega_m = 0.32$ , and  $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.68$ , where the Hubble constant  $H_0 = 100h \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ .

## 2. Observations with the Large Area Telescope—Analysis Procedures

The 4LAC analysis was performed in the context of the 4FGL catalog, which is briefly summarized here. We refer the reader to the parent paper describing the 4FGL catalog for details (The Fermi-LAT collaboration 2020). The data were collected over the first 8 yr of the mission, from 2008 August 4 (MJD 54682) to 2016 August 2 (MJD 57602). The reprocessed P8R3\_SOURCE\_V2 event class (Bruehl et al. 2018) data were used, with photon energies between 50 MeV and 1 TeV, broadening the energy interval with respect to the 100 MeV–300 GeV range of 3FGL (Acero et al. 2015). The increase in acceptance relative to the P7REP class used in 3FGL is 20% at high energies, accompanied by a better point-spread function (PSF). These improvements are beneficial to the source detection and localization, and hence to the counterpart association. A dedicated diffuse emission model was developed for analyses using the new event class. Weights penalizing photons with low energies and/or having directions close to the Galactic plane were introduced in the 4FGL likelihood to better account for systematic uncertainties. More details are available in Table 2 of the 4FGL paper. Different spectral models (power-law, log-parabola, power-law with superexponential cutoff) were tested, and the results are systematically reported in 4FGL. Sources with a maximum likelihood Test Statistic (TS) greater than 25 were retained in 4FGL, corresponding to a significance just over  $4\sigma$  evaluated for the  $\chi^2$  distribution with four degrees of freedom. Variability was assessed via both 1 yr and 2 month light curves.

## 3. Source Association and Classification

The associations of 4FGL gamma-ray sources are based on positional coincidence with potential counterparts that display AGN-type spectral characteristics in the radio, infrared, optical, or X-ray bands. A conservative policy adopted early in the mission by the *Fermi*-LAT Collaboration is that firm identification is only claimed when correlated variability with a counterpart detected at lower energy has been reported. So far, only 78 AGNs have met this condition (see Table 7 of 4FGL). For the other sources, we use statistical approaches for finding associations between LAT sources and AGNs. The two approaches used here, the Bayesian method and the likelihood-ratio method, have been extensively described in previous

**Table 1**  
Catalogs Used for the Bayesian Association Method

| Name                              | Objects <sup>a</sup> | References                                                    |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| BZCAT (Blazars)                   | 3561                 | Massaro et al. (2015)                                         |
| BL Lac                            | 1371                 | Véron-Cetty & Véron (2010)                                    |
| AGN                               | 10066                | Véron-Cetty & Véron (2010)                                    |
| QSO                               | 129,853              | Véron-Cetty & Véron (2010)                                    |
| Seyfert galaxies                  | 27651                | Véron-Cetty & Véron (2010)                                    |
| Narrow-line Seyfert galaxies      | 18                   | Berton et al. (2015)                                          |
| Narrow-line Seyfert galaxies      | 556                  | Rakshit et al. (2017)                                         |
| FRICAT (radio galaxies)           | 233                  | Capetti et al. (2017a)                                        |
| FRIICAT (radio galaxies)          | 123                  | Capetti et al. (2017b)                                        |
| Giant Radio Source                | 349                  | Kuźmick et al. (2018)                                         |
| 2WHSP                             | 1691                 | Chang et al. (2017)                                           |
| WISE blazar catalog               | 12319                | D’Abrusco et al. (2014)                                       |
| Radio Fundamental Catalog (2019a) | 15740                | <a href="http://astrogeo.org/rfc">http://astrogeo.org/rfc</a> |
| CGRaBS                            | 1625                 | Healey et al. (2008)                                          |
| CRATES                            | 11499                | Healey et al. (2007)                                          |
| ATCA 20 GHz southern sky survey   | 5890                 | Murphy et al. (2010)                                          |

**Note.**

<sup>a</sup> Number of objects in the catalog.

catalogs (Abdo et al. 2010b; Ackermann et al. 2011, 2015) and are briefly summarized below.

### 3.1. Source Association

#### 3.1.1. The Bayesian Association Method

The Bayesian method was adapted for the *Fermi*-LAT catalogs following the work of Mattox et al. (1997) developed for the Energetic Gamma Ray Experiment Telescope (EGRET) on the *Compton Gamma Ray Observatory*. This method is described in Abdo et al. (2010b) and implemented with the *gtsrcid* tool.<sup>72</sup> The angular distance between a LAT source and a candidate counterpart corresponds to the position uncertainty in the case of a real association, while it is driven by the counterpart density in the case of a false (random) association. The prior distribution is fully characterized by a single number, which is the *a priori* probability that a given source of a catalog is the true counterpart of a gamma-ray source. This probability (referred to as the prior in the following) is assumed to be constant for a given catalog and is calibrated via Monte Carlo simulations so that the number of false associations,  $N_{\text{false}}$ , is equal to the sum of the association-probability complements. For a given counterpart catalog, the prior is found to be close to  $N_{\text{assoc}}/N_{\text{tot}}$ , where  $N_{\text{assoc}}$  is the number of associations from this catalog and  $N_{\text{tot}}$  is the number of catalog sources. A uniform threshold of 0.80 is applied to the posterior probability for the association to be retained.

The list of catalogs used for the AGN associations with 4FGL sources is given in Table 1. With respect to 3LAC (Ackermann et al. 2015), updates of counterpart catalogs, e.g., BZCAT (Massaro et al. 2015), have been used when available. An important addition to the set of catalogs is the Radio

<sup>72</sup> <https://fermi.gsfc.nasa.gov/ssc/data/analysis/scitools/overview.html>

Fundamental Catalog<sup>73</sup> (RFC; Petrov et al. 2019), with 2720 associations with 4FGL sources (representing 85% of all AGNs). The high efficiency of association with VLBI catalogs that are sensitive to parsec-scale emission at 4–8 GHz is attributed to two factors: (1) the fact that  $\gamma$ -ray emission and parsec scale radio emission which originate from contemporary AGN activity are related, (2) the scarcity of radio sources with parsec scale emission at 4–8 GHz. The RFC includes many new entries that came from dedicated follow-up observations (Petrov et al. 2013; Schinzel et al. 2015, 2017) of unassociated gamma-ray sources, triggered by the publication of previous *Fermi*-LAT catalogs. Applying the Bayesian method to the whole catalog and retaining associations with  $P \geq 0.80$ , the association probability attached to the recent additions (181 sources) are reported as NULL to distinguish them for the others.

### 3.1.2. The Likelihood Ratio Association Method

The Likelihood Ratio (LR; e.g., de Ruiter et al. 1977; Cash 1979; Prestage & Peacock 1983; Sutherland & Saunders 1992; Lonsdale et al. 1998; Masci et al. 2001; Ackermann et al. 2011) method developed in the *Fermi*-LAT context makes use of large, relatively uniform surveys in the radio and in X-ray bands. These surveys enable us to search for possible counterparts among the faint radio and X-ray sources. The LR method is similar in nature to the Bayesian method, but the false association rate is computed from the density of objects brighter than the considered candidate, assessed from the survey log  $N$ –log  $S$  distribution. The method for computing the probability that a candidate is the “true” counterpart (called the reliability in this context) is described in detail in Section 3.2 of the 3LAC paper (Ackermann et al. 2015). A source is considered as a high-confidence counterpart of a given gamma-ray source if its reliability is greater than 0.80 for at least one survey.

For the LR approach, we analyzed the NRAO VLA Sky Survey (NVSS; Condon et al. 1998), the Sydney University Molonglo Sky Survey (SUMSS; Mauch et al. 2003), the Australia Telescope 20 GHz radio source catalog (Murphy et al. 2010), and the *ROSAT* All Sky Survey (RASS) Bright and Faint Source Catalogs (Voges et al. 1999, 2000). We also explored the second RASS catalog (Boller et al. 2016), but this attempt did not lead to further associations.

### 3.2. Association Results

The threshold adopted for the association probability is 0.80 in either method. This value represents a compromise between association efficiency and purity. The fraction of sources associated by both methods is 73% (2082/2863), with 684 and 97 sources being solely associated with the Bayesian and LR methods, respectively. The overall false-positive rate is 1.6%, where  $N_{\text{false}}$  is calculated as described in Section 3.1.1. The estimated number of false positives among the 1353 sources not previously reported in 3LAC is 35.6.

As in previous LAT AGN catalogs, we define a Clean Sample as those 4LAC sources that did not have any cautionary analysis flags, as described in Section 3.7.3 of the 4FGL paper (The *Fermi*-LAT collaboration 2020). The most frequent flags are flag 5 (source close to a brighter neighbor), flag 3 (large flux

variation when changing diffuse emission model), and flag 2 (large position shift when changing diffuse emission model). Table 2 compares the performance of the two methods in terms of total number of associations  $N_{\text{assoc}}$ , estimated number of false associations  $N_{\text{false}}$ , and number of sources associated solely via a given method,  $N_s$ , for the full and Clean samples.

### 3.3. Source Classification

The classification of a source as an AGN primarily relies on its optical spectrum. Other characteristics, like the radio loudness, the presence of a flat/steep radio spectrum between 1.4 and 5 GHz, the broadband emission, the core compactness or the level of radio extended emission, the detection of variability, and the degree of polarization observed in different bands are used as ancillary information. If available, earlier classifications reported in the literature have been checked.

#### 3.3.1. Optical Classification

The different resources used in the 4LAC for the optical classification are, in decreasing order of precedence:

1. Optical spectra from recent intensive follow-up programs (e.g., Shaw et al. 2013a, 2013b; Massaro et al. 2014, 2015a, 2015b, 2015c; Paggi et al. 2014; Landoni et al. 2015; Ricci et al. 2015; Alvarez Crespo et al. 2016a, 2016b, 2016c; Chiaro et al. 2016; Paiano et al. 2017a, 2017b, 2017c, 2019; Peña-Herazo et al. 2017; Landoni et al. 2018; Marchesi et al. 2018; de Menezes et al. 2019; Marchesini et al. 2019); these data are especially valuable for blazar candidates of previous LAT AGN catalogs that had never been observed.
2. The optical classification published in the BZCAT list, which is a compilation of sources classified as blazars (Massaro et al. 2015).
3. Spectra available in the literature or from online databases, e.g., the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS; Ahn et al. 2012; Massaro et al. 2014), 6dF Galaxy Survey (Jones et al. 2009), when more recent than the latest version of BZCAT (Massaro et al. 2015). The latter information was used only if the spectrum was published.

The relevant references are reported in the electronic table of the catalog. We did not use the blazar classes from the Simbad database,<sup>74</sup> since some of them correspond to predictions based on the *Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer* (WISE)-strip approach (D’Abrusco et al. 2014) and were not obtained from spectral observations.

In the 4LAC, we classify the AGN-like gamma-ray detected objects adopting the following terminology:

1. Confirmed classifications:
  - (a) FSRQ, BL Lac, radio galaxy, steep-spectrum radio quasar (SSRQ), compact steep spectrum radio source (CSS), Seyfert galaxy, and Narrow-line Seyfert 1 galaxy (NLSy1)—these are sources with a well-established classification in the literature and/or an optical spectrum with clear evidence for or lack of emission lines.
2. Tentative classifications:
  - (a) BCU, blazar candidates of uncertain type: these are considered candidate blazars because the association

<sup>73</sup> Available at <http://astrogeo.org/rfc>.

<sup>74</sup> <http://simbad.u-strasbg.fr/simbad/>

**Table 2**

Comparison of Association Methods in Terms of Total Number of Associations,  $N_{\text{assoc}}$ , Estimated Number of False Associations,  $N_{\text{false}}$ , and Number of Sources Associated Only via a Given Method,  $N_S$

| Sample       | All Methods        |                    | Bayesian Method    |                    |       | LR Method          |                    |       |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|--------------------|-------|
|              | $N_{\text{assoc}}$ | $N_{\text{false}}$ | $N_{\text{assoc}}$ | $N_{\text{false}}$ | $N_S$ | $N_{\text{assoc}}$ | $N_{\text{false}}$ | $N_S$ |
| Full Sample  | 2863               | 44.4               | 2766               | 34.8               | 684   | 2179               | 143.1              | 97    |
| Clean Sample | 2614               | 36.5               | 2529               | 27.9               | 596   | 2018               | 130.9              | 85    |

methods (see Sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2) select a candidate counterpart that satisfies at least one of the following conditions:

- i. a BZU object (blazars of uncertain/transitional type) in the BZCAT list;
- ii. a source with multiwavelength data in one or more of the *WISE*, AT20G, RFC (Petrov et al. 2019), CRATES (Healey et al. 2007), PMN-CA (Griffith & Wright 1993), CRATES-Gaps (Healey et al. 2009), or CLASS (Caccianiga et al. 2002) lists that indicates a flat radio spectrum and shows a typical two-humped, blazar-like spectral energy distribution (SED);
- iii. a source included in radio and X-ray catalogs not listed above and for which we found a typical two-humped, blazar-like SED (see Böttcher 2007).

The scheme followed in 3LAC whereby BCUs were further divided in three subclasses according to the quality or availability of their optical spectra has not been reconducted in 4LAC. The large number of new BCU sources would have made this task excessively manpower-intensive.

- (b) AGN—for these candidate counterparts, the existing data do not allow an unambiguous determination of the AGN type and do not meet any of the criteria to be classified as BCU. Their SEDs display properties typical of radio-loud compact core objects, but the literature information is either incomplete or conflicting for different epochs or wavelengths.

At low Galactic latitudes, the surveys include a large number of Galactic sources; therefore, the 4FGL class of  $|b| < 10^\circ$  sources associated solely via the LR-method has been set to the “unknown” class as opposed to the “BCU” class used by default for sources at larger latitudes. These sources are thus not considered here.

### 3.3.2. Classification Based on the Broadband Spectral Energy Distribution

Blazars and more generally radio-loud AGNs can also be classified according to the peak photon frequency  $\nu_{s,\text{peak}}$  of the synchrotron part of their broadband SEDs. As a large number of 4LAC sources do not have a measured redshift (see Section 5.2), the frequency in the observer frame was used. The SEDs of all 4LAC AGNs were generated using the SED data archive and SED(t)-Builder interactive web-tool available at the Italian Space Agency (ASI) Space Science Data Center (SSDC).<sup>75</sup> Inspection of the error ellipse and the position of the counterpart was first performed using the Sky Data Explorer at SSDC. Two different approaches were followed to enable a cross-check. The first was the parametric procedure used in

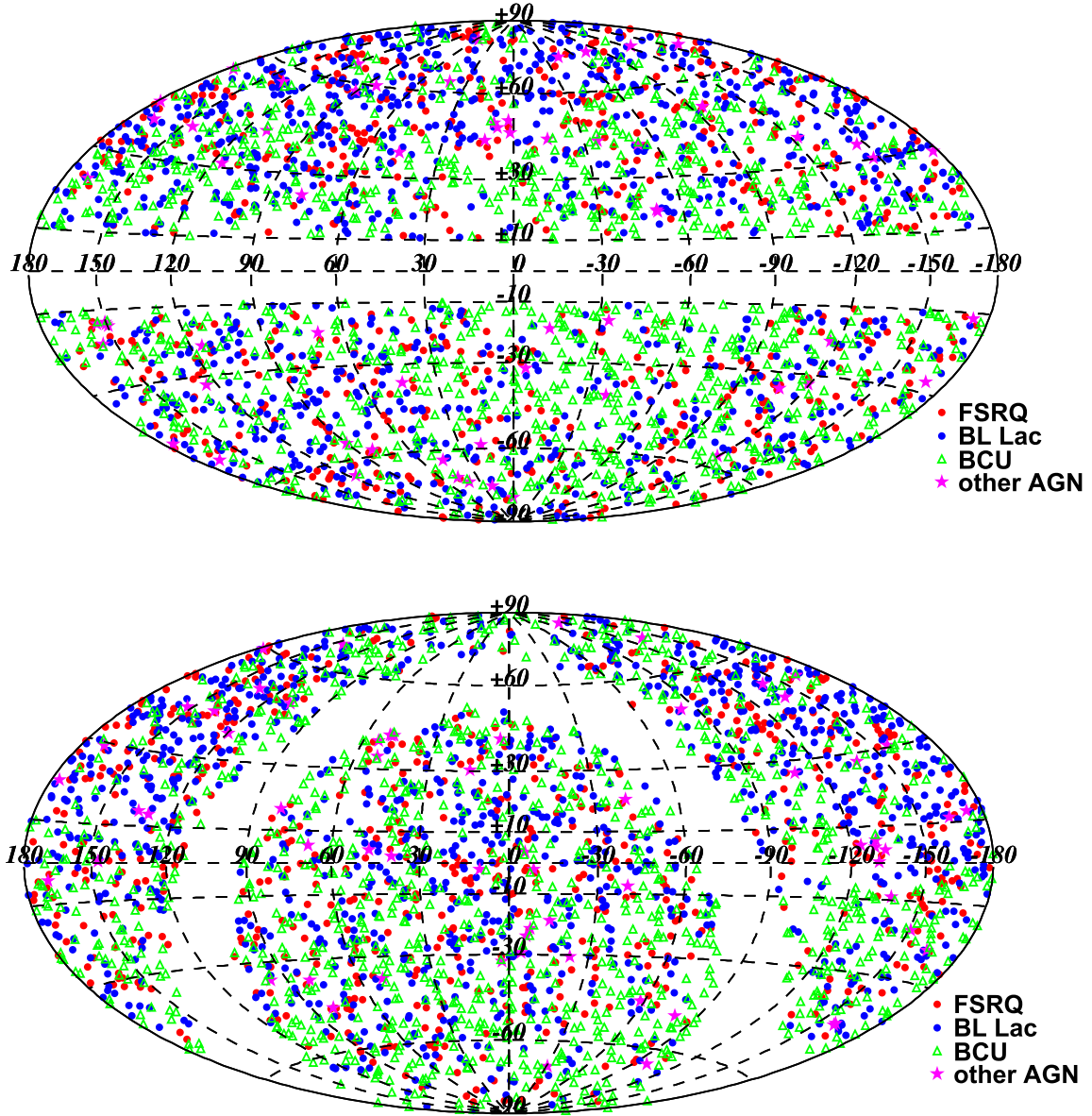
Abdo et al. (2010a) and Ackermann et al. (2011), which is based on the broadband spectral indices  $\alpha_{\text{ro}}$  (between 5 GHz and 5000 Å) and  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  (between 5000 Å and 1 keV). The list of surveys and catalogs providing the broadband flux density data is given in Abdo et al. (2010a). The second method, already used in 3LAC and favored here, consisted of fitting the SED synchrotron hump with a third-degree polynomial fit in the log-log plane. This fit was carried out manually on a source-by-source basis after carefully discarding outlying data (e.g., taken during flaring episodes) and those dominated by the thermal emission of the accretion disk or of the host galaxy. This methodology allowed us to assign a  $\nu_{s,\text{peak}}$  value to more objects, since a measured X-ray flux is not required, provided the SED curvature is sufficiently pronounced in the IR-optical band. This fit also provided the  $\nu F_\nu$  value at the peak position. Limitations arose from possible human errors, the use of nonsimultaneous broadband synchrotron data, and remaining contamination of thermal emission. This contamination may result in an overestimation of the  $\nu_{s,\text{peak}}$  values for FSRQs, while the near-IR-optical contribution of the host galaxy may bias  $\nu_{s,\text{peak}}$  low in BL Lacs. Comparing the results of the two procedures indicated that the fitting method led to an average shift of  $-0.23$  (rms: 0.53) and  $-0.22$  (rms: 0.80) in  $\log \nu_{s,\text{peak}}$  relative to the initial method for FSRQs and BL Lacs, respectively. We identify these shifts as systematic uncertainties. Relative to 3LAC, a more conservative approach was followed when little data were available, leading to a lower fraction of classified sources. The mean differences in  $\log \nu_{s,\text{peak}}$  between 4LAC and 3LAC are  $-0.14$  (rms: 0.37) and  $-0.11$  (rms: 0.65) for FSRQs and BL Lacs, respectively.

Following Abdo et al. (2010a), the value of the observed  $\nu_{s,\text{peak}}$  was used to classify the source as either a low-synchrotron-peaked blazar (LSP, for sources with  $\nu_{s,\text{peak}} < 10^{14}$  Hz), an intermediate-synchrotron-peaked blazar (ISP, for  $10^{14}$  Hz  $< \nu_{s,\text{peak}} < 10^{15}$  Hz), or a high-synchrotron-peaked blazar (HSP, if  $\nu_{s,\text{peak}} > 10^{15}$  Hz). To obtain the rest-frame value of  $\nu_{s,\text{peak}}$ , a correction by a  $(1 + z)$  factor is needed, where  $z$  is the redshift.

## 4. The Fourth LAT AGN Catalog (4LAC)

Figure 1 displays the loci of the 4LAC sources in Galactic and J2000 equatorial coordinates. As already noted in previous LAC catalogs, it is clear from this figure that sources of different classes are not uniformly distributed over the sky. This anisotropy is demonstrated in Figure 2, showing the Galactic-latitude distributions for all 4LAC sources as well as for FSRQs, BL Lacs, and BCUs separately. The anisotropy is most noticeable for BL Lacs, which are 42% more abundant in the northern Galactic hemisphere than in the southern one. BCUs show the opposite pattern and somewhat offset the overall anisotropy as seen in the total distribution of sources, which is close to being uniform. The observed anisotropies stem from the larger and better spectroscopic data available in the literature for

<sup>75</sup> <http://tools.ssdsc.asi.it/SED/>



**Figure 1.** Locations of the sources in the Clean Sample in Galactic (top) and J2000 equatorial (bottom) coordinates and Hammer–Aitoff projection.

the northern hemisphere relative to the southern one. Better spectroscopic data are required to assess the BL Lac nature of an object relative to a FSRQ, because of the weaker optical emission lines in the spectrum of a BL Lac object.

The format of the 4LAC fits table is described in Table 3. In addition to relevant parameters<sup>76</sup> from the 4FGL fits file,<sup>77</sup> we report the optical and SED-based classes, redshifts, observer-frame synchrotron-peak frequencies, and  $\nu F_\nu$  at the synchrotron-peak frequencies. When available, we also provide the VLBI and *Gaia* counterparts as given in the RFC. The median position accuracy of VLBI counterparts is 0.8 mas. Therefore, establishing association with VLBI immediately allows us to propagate the associations to the optical range using *Gaia* and

IR using *WISE*. Following this route, we obtain *Gaia* associations with 2134 gamma-ray blazars (74%).

#### 4.1. Census

Table 4 summarizes the 4LAC statistics. The 4LAC includes 2863 sources, with 655 FSRQs, 1067 BL Lacs, 1077 BCUs, and 64 other AGNs. A total of 1353 sources were not reported in the previous 3LAC catalog, although some of these have been reported elsewhere, e.g., Arsioli & Chang (2017) and Arsioli & Polenta (2018). The new sources include 204 FSRQs, 290 BL Lacs, 822 BCUs, and 36 nonblazar AGNs. The Clean Sample contains 2614 sources, with 591 FSRQs, 1027 BL Lacs, 941 BCUs, and 55 other AGNs. The figures shown in the following only include Clean Sample sources, unless specified otherwise.

The SED-based scheme was able to classify 92% of the FSRQs and 85% of the BL Lacs in 4FGL. These values are lower than in 3LAC (99% and 97% for FSRQs and BL Lacs, respectively) due to the more conservative classification procedure used here. The classified fraction decreases to 60%

<sup>76</sup> The FSRQ 3C 454.3 is the only AGN whose preferred spectral shape is a power law with subexponential cutoff. The corresponding parameters can be found in the 4FGL fits file.

<sup>77</sup> [https://fermi.gsfc.nasa.gov/ssc/data/access/lat/8yr\\_catalog/gll\\_psc\\_v20.fit](https://fermi.gsfc.nasa.gov/ssc/data/access/lat/8yr_catalog/gll_psc_v20.fit)

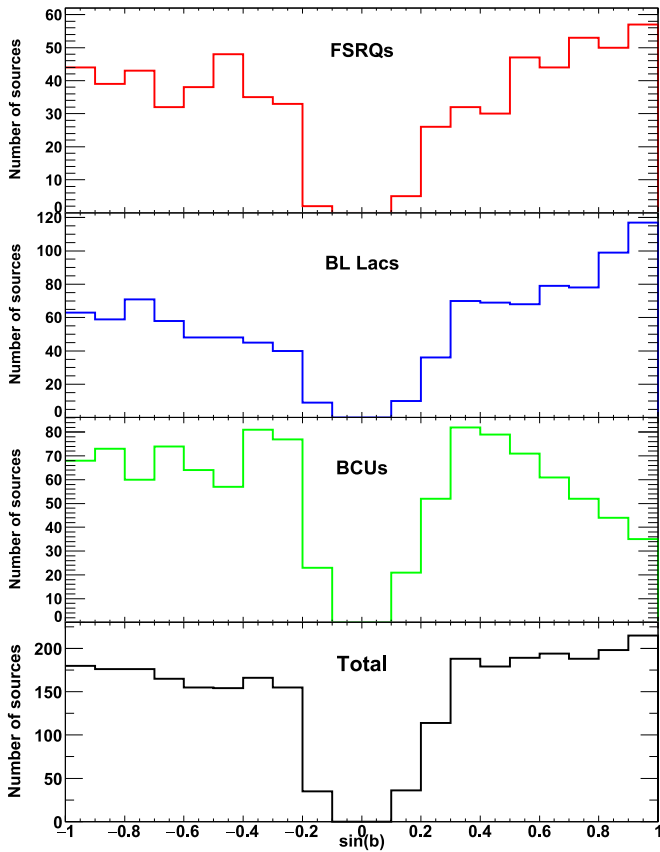


Figure 2. Distributions of Galactic latitudes for the different blazar classes.

for BCUs, for which fewer broadband archival data are available. Figure 3 shows the  $\nu_{s,\text{peak}}$  distributions for the different classes. FSRQs are overwhelmingly of the LSP class; therefore, no distinction based on SED-based classes is made for them in figures and tallies. In addition to leaving more sources unclassified, the new procedure has produced a decrease in the share of ISPs and HSPs among FSRQs, from 10% to 2%. Of the five HSP FSRQs, all located at  $z < 0.63$ , two are new: B3 0038 + 377 and PKS 1555–140.

BL Lacs are fairly evenly distributed among the LSP, ISP, and HSP subclasses. The 4LAC  $\nu_{s,\text{peak}}$  distribution differs substantially from the 3LAC one, where HSPs were the most abundant subclass. The new classification procedure caused 15% of the AGN previously classified as HSP to be reclassified as ISP.

As a testimony to the substantial follow-up observational efforts already mentioned, 144 sources reported as BCUs in the 3LAC paper (either at high or low Galactic latitudes) are now classified as BL Lacs and 17 as FSRQs. Three BCUs have been reclassified as radio galaxies (IC 1531, TXS 0149+710, PKS 1304–215). Eight sources have changed from a FSRQ to a BL Lac (RGB J0250+172, NVSS J040324–242946, GB6 J0941+2721, 2MASS J11303636+1018245, PKS 1144–379, 4C +15.54, TXS 1951–115, PKS 2233–173) and three more from a BL Lac to a FSRQ (PMN J0709–0255, B2 2234+28A, TXS 2241+406).

The 3LAC sources that are not present in 4LAC are listed in Table 5, along with the various reasons for this situation. Fifty-five 3LAC sources have not been detected in 4FGL. Nineteen 3LAC sources were duplicate associations for which the smaller 4FGL error boxes relative to 3FGL have enabled the association ambiguity to be lifted. Fifteen sources reported in

3LAC have lost their associations (becoming unassociated), while three others are now associated with non-AGN counterparts, all due to improved localizations.

#### 4.2. Nonblazar AGNs and Misaligned AGNs

Table 6 lists the 70 nonblazar AGNs included in the 4FGL, 64 of which belong to the 4LAC and 6 are part of the low-latitude sample. Nonblazar sources represent about 2% of the total number of AGNs in the 4FGL, a fraction that is basically identical to that found in the 3LAC. Nonblazar sources are further separated into six different classes: 41 radio galaxies,<sup>78</sup> 9 NLSy1s, 5 CSSs, 2 SSRQs, 1 Seyfert galaxy, and 11 other AGNs.

A total of 36 new nonblazar AGNs are reported in the 4LAC, 22 of which are radio galaxies. The median 1.4 GHz radio luminosity of the newly detected radio galaxies is about  $10^{24.4}$  W Hz<sup>-1</sup>, with the distribution ranging over more than 4 decades (from below  $10^{22}$  W Hz<sup>-1</sup>, for NGC 2892, to above  $10^{26}$  W Hz<sup>-1</sup>, for PKS 2324–02). The detection of the FR I radio galaxy 3C 120 in gamma-rays was first reported by Abdo et al. (2010c) using 15 months of LAT data, but it is reported in a LAT catalog for the first time. Its absence from previous catalogs can be attributed to periods of flaring interspersed with long periods of low activity (Tanaka et al. 2015). TXS 1303 +114 and TXS 1516+064 are members of the FRICAT (Capetti et al. 2017a), although they were earlier proposed as candidate low-power BL Lacs in Capetti & Raiteri (2015) based on their mid-infrared and optical emission. Among the sources already present in previous LAT catalogs, Fornax A stands out because it is, for the first time, detected as an extended source (see Ackermann et al. 2016). Three 3FGL sources have changed class from BCU to radio galaxy (IC 1531, TXS 0149+710, and PKS 1304–215). We associate 4FGL J1346.3–6026 with Cen B, although its location is not coincident with that of the radio-galaxy core but points to the southern radio jet. Similarly, we associate 4FGL J1516.5 +0015 with the radio galaxy 4C +00.56 (PKS 1514+00,  $z = 0.0525$ ) while the gamma-ray position is closer to the lobes than to the core of the radio galaxy.

The only new SSRQ is 3C 212, for which X-ray emission associated with both lobes was detected by *Chandra* (Aldcroft et al. 2003). Three new CSSs are reported in the 4LAC: 3C 138, 3C 216, and 3C 309.1. These new CSSs are hosted in quasars. At the pc scale, they show a core-jet structure with apparent superluminal motion, indicating Doppler effects and small viewing angles (Paragi et al. 2000; Shen et al. 2001; Lister et al. 2019). While the CSSs all have very high radio luminosity, at the opposite end of the radio luminosity distribution are two other new LAT sources, NGC 3894 and NGC 6328. Based on the small extent of their radio emission, two-sided parsec scale morphology (Taylor et al. 1998; Tingay & de Kool 2003), and low radio luminosity, these sources are excellent candidates for being young radio galaxies (see also Migliori et al. 2016; Principe et al. 2019).

The classification of a source as an NLSy1 relies on three criteria, as reported in Osterbrock & Pogge (1985), Goodrich (1989), and Pogge (2000): (i) a full width half maximum (FWHM) of the  $H_{\beta}$  line  $< 2000$  km s<sup>-1</sup>; (ii) a  $[O III]\lambda 5007/H_{\beta}$  ratio  $< 3$ ; and (iii) unusually strong Fe II lines. Nine NLSy1 are reported in the 4LAC. Four of them are new with respect to

<sup>78</sup> Two different gamma-ray sources are associated with the core and lobes of Cen A.

**Table 3**  
4LAC FITS Format

| Column               | Format | Unit                               | Description                                                                                |
|----------------------|--------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Source_Name          | 18A    | ...                                | Source name 4FGL JHHMM.m+DDMMa <sup>a</sup>                                                |
| RAJ2000              | E      | deg                                | R.A.                                                                                       |
| DEJ2000              | E      | deg                                | Decl.                                                                                      |
| GLON                 | E      | deg                                | Galactic Longitude                                                                         |
| GLAT                 | E      | deg                                | Galactic Latitude                                                                          |
| Signif_Avg           | E      | ...                                | Source significance in $\sigma$ units over the 50 MeV–1 TeV band                           |
| Flux1000             | E      | $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$     | Integral photon flux from 1 to 100 GeV                                                     |
| Unc_Flux1000         | E      | $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$     | $1\sigma$ error on integral photon flux from 1 to 100 GeV                                  |
| Energy_Flux100       | E      | $\text{erg cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ | Energy flux from 100 MeV to 100 GeV obtained by spectral fitting                           |
| Unc_Energy_Flux100   | E      | $\text{erg cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ | $1\sigma$ error on energy flux from 100 MeV to 100 GeV                                     |
| SpectrumType         | 17A    | ...                                | Spectral type in the global model (PowerLaw, LogParabola, PLSuperExpCutoff)                |
| PL_Index             | E      | ...                                | Photon index when fitting with PowerLaw                                                    |
| Unc_PL_Index         | E      | ...                                | $1\sigma$ error on PL_Index                                                                |
| Pivot_Energy         | E      | MeV                                | Pivot Energy                                                                               |
| LP_Index             | E      | ...                                | Photon index at Pivot_Energy ( $\alpha$ ) when fitting with LogParabola                    |
| Unc_LP_Index         | E      | ...                                | $1\sigma$ error on LP_Index                                                                |
| LP_beta              | E      | ...                                | Curvature parameter ( $\beta$ ) when fitting with LogParabola                              |
| Unc_LP_beta          | E      | ...                                | $1\sigma$ error on LP_beta                                                                 |
| Flags                | I      | ...                                | Analysis flags                                                                             |
| CLASS                | 6A     | ...                                | Class designation for associated source                                                    |
| ASSOC1               | 30A    | ...                                | Name of identified or likely associated source                                             |
| ASSOC_PROB_BAY       | E      | ...                                | Probability of association according to the Bayesian method                                |
| ASSOC_PROB_LR        | E      | ...                                | Probability of association according to the Likelihood Ratio method                        |
| Counterpart_Catalog  | 10A    | ...                                | Counterpart catalog driving the association                                                |
| RA_Counterpart       | D      | deg                                | R.A. of the counterpart ASSOC1                                                             |
| DEC_Counterpart      | D      | deg                                | Decl. of the counterpart ASSOC1                                                            |
| Unc_Counterpart      | E      | deg                                | 95% precision of the counterpart localization                                              |
| VLBI_Counterpart     | 14A    | ...                                | Name of the VLBI counterpart                                                               |
| Gaia_Counterpart     | 29A    | ...                                | Name of the <i>Gaia</i> counterpart established via the VLBI position                      |
| Gaia_G_Magnitude     | E      | ...                                | Gaia Magnitude at the <i>G</i> band                                                        |
| Redshift             | E      | ...                                | Redshift                                                                                   |
| SED_class            | 6A     | ...                                | SED-based class                                                                            |
| nu_syn               | E      | Hz                                 | Synchrotron-peak frequency in observer frame                                               |
| nuFnu_syn            | E      | $\text{erg cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ | Spectral energy distribution at synchrotron-peak frequency                                 |
| Variability_Index    | E      | ...                                | Variability index                                                                          |
| Frac_Variability     | E      | ...                                | Fractional variability                                                                     |
| Unc_Frac_Variability | E      | ...                                | $1\sigma$ error on fractional variability                                                  |
| Highest_energy       | E      | GeV                                | Energy of the highest-energy ULTRACLEANVETO photon with association probability $P > 0.95$ |

**Note.**

<sup>a</sup> The coordinates are rounded, following the IAU convention.

(This table is available in its entirety in machine-readable form.)

the 3LAC: 1ERS B1303+515, B3 1441+476, MG2 J164443+2618, and TXS 2116–077. B3 1441+476, MG2 J164443+2618, and TXS 2116–077 were previously reported by D’Ammando et al. (2015a) and Paliya et al. (2018), respectively. The Circinus galaxy (Hayashida et al. 2013) remains the only radio-quiet Seyfert galaxy detected by the LAT.

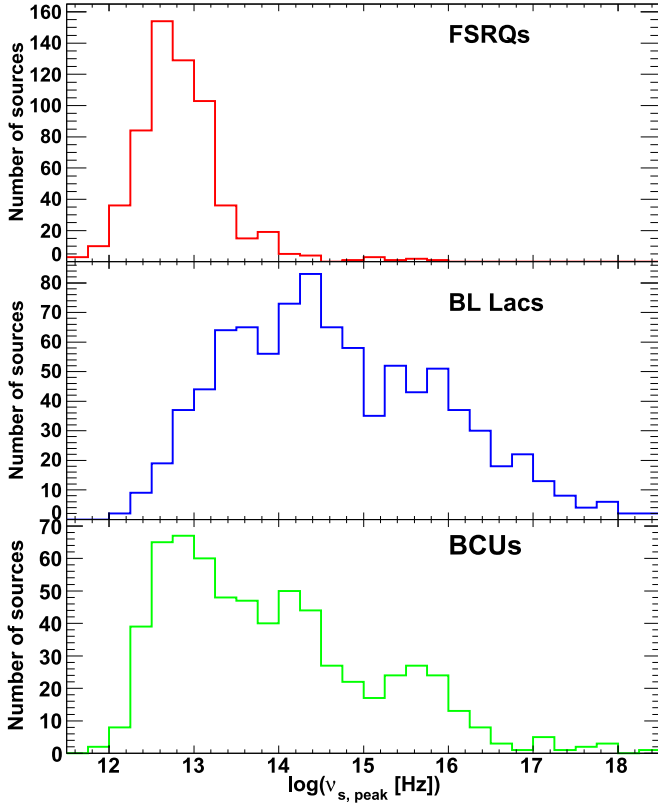
Among other AGNs, there are two remarkable cases. One is PKS 0521–36, previously classified as BCU in the 3LAC, which shows a knotty VLBA radio structure similar to misaligned AGN. Based on the broad emission lines in the optical and ultraviolet bands and the steep radio spectrum, a possible classification as an intermediate object between broad-line radio galaxies and SSRQ has been suggested by D’Ammando et al. (2015b). The new source PKS 2331–240 was the subject of a multiwavelength

study revealing features of a giant radio galaxy restarted as a blazar (Hernández-García et al. 2017).

Finally, 10 nonblazar AGNs reported in the 3LAC are not confirmed in the 4LAC. Five of them had a double association in the 3LAC and are now firmly associated with the other counterpart; two have changed associations (formerly with 3C 221 and 3C 275.1); one has been reclassified as a BCU (GB 1310+487); while two 3FGL nonblazar AGNs are missing in 4FGL (TXS 0348+013, PKS 1617–251).

#### 4.3. Low-latitude AGNs

In addition to high-latitude ( $|b| > 10^\circ$ ) 4LAC sources, we present a low-latitude sample. This sample is less complete than the 4LAC because the LAT detection flux limit is higher



**Figure 3.** Distributions of the synchrotron peak frequency  $\nu_{s,\text{peak}}$  for the different blazar classes.

**Table 4**  
Census of Sources

| AGN type               | Entire 4LAC | 4LAC Clean Sample <sup>a</sup> | Low-latitude Sample |
|------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| All                    | 2863        | 2614                           | 344                 |
| FSRQ                   | 655         | 591                            | 36                  |
| LSP                    | 587         | 540                            | 34                  |
| ISP                    | 11          | 9                              | 0                   |
| HSP                    | 5           | 4                              | 0                   |
| No SED classification  | 52          | 38                             | 2                   |
| BL Lac                 | 1067        | 1027                           | 64                  |
| LSP                    | 297         | 288                            | 15                  |
| ISP                    | 280         | 270                            | 7                   |
| HSP                    | 326         | 316                            | 25                  |
| No SED classification  | 164         | 153                            | 17                  |
| Blazar of unknown type | 1077        | 941                            | 238                 |
| LSP                    | 382         | 327                            | 57                  |
| ISP                    | 142         | 128                            | 9                   |
| HSP                    | 128         | 126                            | 12                  |
| No SED classification  | 425         | 360                            | 160                 |
| Nonblazar AGN          | 64          | 55                             | 6                   |
| NLSy1                  | 9           | 9                              | 0                   |
| RG                     | 38          | 31                             | 4                   |
| CSS                    | 5           | 5                              | 0                   |
| SSRQ                   | 2           | 2                              | 0                   |
| SEY                    | 0           | 0                              | 1                   |
| Other AGN              | 10          | 8                              | 1                   |

**Note.**

<sup>a</sup> Sources with single counterparts and without analysis flags. See Section 3.2 for the definitions of this sample.

**Table 5**  
The 3LAC Sources Not Present in 4LAC

| 3FGL Name    | Counterpart           | Class | 4FGL <sup>a</sup> |
|--------------|-----------------------|-------|-------------------|
| J0127.9+2551 | 4C +25.05             | fsrq  | M                 |
| J0135.0+6927 | TXS 0130+691          | bcu   | M                 |
| J0211.7+5402 | TXS 0207+538          | bcu   | M                 |
| J0216.1-7016 | PMN J0215-7014        | bcu   | M                 |
| J0217.3+6209 | TXS 0213+619          | bcu   | M                 |
| J0223.5+6313 | TXS 0219+628          | bcu   | M                 |
| J0228.5+6703 | GB6 J0229+6706        | bcu   | M                 |
| J0302.0+5335 | GB6 J0302+5331        | bcu   | M                 |
| J0336.9-1304 | PKS 0334-131          | fsrq  | M                 |
| J0351.1+0128 | TXS 0348+013          | ssrq  | M                 |
| J0512.2+2918 | B2 0509+29            | bcu   | M                 |
| J0514.4+5603 | TXS 0510+559          | fsrq  | M                 |
| J0517.4+4540 | 4C +45.08             | fsrq  | M                 |
| J0528.3+1815 | 1RXS J052829.6+181657 | bcu   | M                 |
| J0618.9-1138 | TXS 0616-116          | bcu   | M                 |
| J0627.9-1517 | NVSS J062753-152003   | bcu   | M                 |
| J0730.3+6720 | GB6 J0731+6718        | fsrq  | M                 |
| J0742.4-8133 | SUMSS J074220-813139  | bcu   | M                 |
| J0744.1-3804 | PMN J0743-3804        | bcu   | M                 |
| J0904.9+2739 | GB6 J0905+2748A       | fsrq  | M                 |
| J0928.7+7300 | GB6 J0929+7304        | bcu   | M                 |
| J0956.7-6441 | AT20G J095612-643928  | bcu   | M                 |
| J1005.0-4959 | PMN J1006-5018        | bcu   | M                 |
| J1016.0-0635 | NVSS J101626-063624   | bcu   | M                 |
| J1024.8+0105 | PMN J1024+0056        | bcu   | M                 |
| J1037.4-3742 | PKS 1034-374          | fsrq  | M                 |
| J1123.2-6415 | AT20G J112319-641735  | bcu   | M                 |
| J1205.4+0412 | MG1 J120448+0408      | fsrq  | M                 |
| J1218.5+6912 | NVSS J122044+690522   | bcu   | M                 |
| J1326.1+2931 | TXS 1323+298          | bl    | M                 |
| J1330.0-3818 | Tol 1326-379          | fsrq  | M                 |
| J1356.3-4029 | SUMSS J135625-402820  | bcu   | M                 |
| J1415.0-1001 | PKS B1412-096         | fsrq  | M                 |
| J1509.9-2951 | TXS 1507-296          | bcu   | M                 |
| J1513.1-1014 | PKS 1511-100          | fsrq  | M                 |
| J1514.1+2940 | MG2 J151421+2930      | fsrq  | M                 |
| J1536.6+8331 | NVSS J153556+832614   | bcu   | M                 |
| J1541.8+1105 | MG1 J154207+1110      | fsrq  | M                 |
| J1621.1-2331 | PKS 1617-235          | agn   | M                 |
| J1645.2-5747 | AT20G J164513-575122  | bcu   | M                 |
| J1648.5-4829 | PMN J1648-4826        | bcu   | M                 |
| J1723.5-5609 | PMN J1723-5614        | bcu   | M                 |
| J1747.1+0139 | PMN J1746+0141        | bcu   | M                 |
| J1757.4+6536 | 7C 1757+6536          | bcu   | M                 |
| J1804.1+0341 | TXS 1801+036          | fsrq  | M                 |
| J1819.1+4259 | NVSS J181927+425800   | bcu   | M                 |
| J1822.1-7051 | PMN J1823-7056        | bcu   | M                 |
| J1949.4-6140 | PMN J1949-6137        | bcu   | M                 |
| J2107.7-4822 | PMN J2107-4827        | bcu   | M                 |
| J2151.6-2744 | PMN J2151-2742        | fsrq  | M                 |
| J2203.7+3143 | 4C +31.63             | fsrq  | M                 |
| J2236.2-5049 | SUMSSJ223605-505521   | bcu   | M                 |
| J2246.2+1547 | NVSS J224604+154437   | bcu   | M                 |
| J2305.3-4219 | SUMSS J230512-421859  | bcu   | M                 |
| J2343.6+1551 | MG1 J234342+1542      | fsrq  | M                 |
| J0003.8-1151 | PKS 0001-121          | bcu   | D                 |
| J0009.1+0630 | GB6 J0009+0625        | bl    | D                 |
| J0059.1-5701 | PKS 0056-572          | bcu   | L                 |
| J0203.6+3043 | B2 0200+30            | fsrq  | D                 |
| J0426.6+0459 | 4C +04.15             | bcu   | L                 |
| J0442.6-0017 | 1RXS J044229.8-001823 | bl    | D                 |
| J0447.8-2119 | PKS 0446-212          | fsrq  | L                 |

**Table 5**  
(Continued)

| 3FGL Name    | Counterpart              | Class | 4FGL <sup>a</sup> |
|--------------|--------------------------|-------|-------------------|
| J0515.3-4557 | PMN J0514-4554           | bcu   | D                 |
| J0526.0+4253 | NVSS J052520+425520      | bcu   | C                 |
| J0542.2-8737 | SUMSS J054923-874001     | bcu   | L                 |
| J0618.0+7819 | 1REX J061757+7816.1      | fsrq  | C                 |
| J0647.1-4415 | SUMSS J064648-441929     | bcu   | C                 |
| J0712.2-6436 | MRC 0712-643             | bcu   | L                 |
| J0744.8-4028 | PMN J0744-4032           | bcu   | L                 |
| J0807.9+4946 | SDSS J080754.50+494627.6 | fsrq  | D                 |
| J0824.9+3916 | 4C +39.23B               | css   | D                 |
| J0825.4-0213 | PMN J0825-0204           | bcu   | L                 |
| J0934.1+3933 | 3C 221                   | rdg   | D                 |
| J1007.4-3334 | TXS 1005-333             | bcu   | D                 |
| J1010.8-0158 | NVSS J101051-020227      | fsrq  | D                 |
| J1018.1+1904 | MG1 J101810+1903         | bcu   | D                 |
| J1048.6+2338 | NVSS J104900+233821      | bll   | C                 |
| J1101.5+4106 | B3 1058+413              | bcu   | D                 |
| J1146.8+3958 | NVSS J114653+395751      | bcu   | D                 |
| J1207.6-4537 | PMN J1207-4531           | bcu   | L                 |
| J1244.1+1615 | 3C 275.1                 | ssrq  | D                 |
| J1256.7+5328 | TXS 1254+538             | bcu   | L                 |
| J1300.2+1416 | NVSS J130041+141728      | bcu   | D                 |
| J1322.8-0938 | PMN J1323-0943           | bcu   | D                 |
| J1451.2+6355 | TXS 1450+641             | bcu   | D                 |
| J1514.8+4446 | NVSS J151436+445003      | fsrq  | L                 |
| J1554.4+2010 | 1ES 1552+203             | bll   | L                 |
| J1617.3-2519 | TXS 1613-251             | agn   | D                 |
| J1625.9+4125 | 4C +41.32                | fsrq  | D                 |
| J1908.8-0130 | NVSS J190836-012642      | bcu   | L                 |
| J2036.8-2830 | PMN J2036-2830           | fsrq  | L                 |
| J2110.3+3540 | B2 2107+35A              | bcu   | L                 |
| J2348.4-5100 | SUMSS J234852-510311     | bcu   | L                 |

**Note.**

<sup>a</sup> M: missing gamma-ray source in 4FGL. L: 3FGL source present in 4FGL but now unassociated. C: 3FGL source present in 4FGL but now associated with a non-AGN counterpart. D: duplicate counterpart in 3LAC now missing in 4LAC.

(This table is available in machine-readable form.)

in this region (by factors of a few) and the counterpart catalogs suffer from Galactic extinction. Because a large contamination of Galactic sources is present in the radio and X-ray surveys used in the LR association method, the classes of the resulting associations are highly uncertain. Consequently, these associations were not considered here. The census of the low-latitude sample is given in the last column of Table 4. The fraction of BCUs (62%) is overwhelming, as expected from the observational hindrance mentioned above.

## 5. Properties of the 4LAC Clean Sample Sources

### 5.1. Flux and Spectral Properties

Although many 4FGL/4LAC sources show significant spectral curvature in the gamma-ray band (The Fermi-LAT collaboration 2020), the gamma-ray power-law photon index,  $\Gamma$ , represents a convenient way to compare the spectral hardness of different sources across various classes and flux values. This index is plotted versus the 8 yr average energy flux above 100 MeV,  $S_{25}$ , in Figure 4. The flux detection limit ranges from  $(1-4) \times 10^{-12}$  erg cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> (i.e., close to 1 eV

cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>), with a slight dependence on the spectral hardness. This dependence is stronger than in 3LAC due to the introduction of weights in the 4FGL likelihood to better account for systematic uncertainties. BCUs are rare among the brightest sources (i.e., with  $S_{25} > 10^{-11}$  erg cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>), while they are dominant close to the flux limit.

Figure 5 displays the photon index distributions for the different optical blazar classes, for 4LAC sources already present in 3LAC and the new ones. Newly detected gamma-ray FSRQs, i.e., not reported in previous LAT AGN catalogs, have somewhat softer spectra (difference in median  $\Gamma \simeq 0.08$ ) than the previously reported ones, possibly indicating the emergence of sources with SED peaking at lower energy. The difference between the FSRQ and BL Lac distributions is striking. The  $\Gamma$  medians and rms are  $2.44 \pm 0.20$  and  $2.02 \pm 0.21$  for FSRQs and BL Lacs respectively. The relative separation in gamma-ray spectral hardness between FSRQs and BL Lacs already reported in previous LAT catalogs is confirmed: 89% of FSRQs and 86% of BL Lacs have  $\Gamma$  greater and lower than 2.25, respectively. This feature by itself carries significant discrimination power between the two classes. The photon index varies among the BL Lac subclasses, with medians and rms in  $\Gamma$  of  $2.17 \pm 0.16$ ,  $2.05 \pm 0.19$ , and  $1.88 \pm 0.14$  for LSPs, ISPs, and HSPs, respectively. The BCU index distribution straddles that of the two classes and extends to  $\Gamma = 3$ . The expectation that both the BCU photon-index and  $\nu_{s,\text{peak}}$  distributions correspond to linear combinations of the observed FSRQ and BL Lac distributions is tested in Figure 6. Composite distributions were built assuming the same fractions of FSRQs and BL Lacs as in the observed sample for the photon index distributions. For the  $\nu_{s,\text{peak}}$  distribution, a slight correction (a factor of 0.92) in the normalization was introduced in disfavor of FSRQ to account for the difference in efficiency for fitting the SEDs successfully, due to better broadband data for FSRQs (see Section 4.1). The reasonable agreement between the composite and BCU distributions for both photon index and  $\nu_{s,\text{peak}}$  seen in Figure 6 supports the idea that the sample of unclassified blazars (i.e., BCUs) is of a composition similar to that of the classified sample in 4LAC.

Figure 7 displays the photon index as a function of the observed synchrotron peak frequency. Even though  $\nu_{s,\text{peak}}$  should be corrected by a factor  $1+z$  to obtain the rest-frame value and make the correlation more physical, the fairly strong correlation already noted in previous catalogs is clearly visible. The correlation obtained in 3LAC was reproduced theoretically by Dermer et al. (2015) using an equipartition blazar model with a log-parabola description of the electron energy distribution. In the region of  $\nu_{s,\text{peak}}$  where BL Lac LSPs and FSRQs overlap, their photon index distributions are very similar. This is the expected region for objects that might be transitioning between being FSRQs and BL Lacs. Ruan et al. (2014) found six such transitioning objects. Five of them, all of the LSP subclass, are present in 4LAC: OJ 451 (4FGL J0833.9+4223, FSRQ,  $\Gamma = 2.44 \pm 0.07$ ), TXS 1013+054 (4FGL J1016.0+0512, FSRQ,  $\Gamma = 2.18 \pm 0.04$ ), PKS 1247+025 (4FGL J1250.6+0217, BLL,  $\Gamma = 2.00 \pm 0.10$ ), 5C 12.291 (4FGL J1308.5+3547, FSRQ,  $\Gamma = 2.29 \pm 0.06$ ), and PMN J2206-0031 (4FGL J2206.8-0032, BLL,  $\Gamma = 2.25 \pm 0.05$ ). Three of these sources have  $\Gamma$  very close to the  $\Gamma = 2.25$  limit outlined above. The four HSP FSRQs in the Clean Sample all have  $\Gamma < 2.02$ , as expected from the class of “HFSRQs,” which is not fitting with the “blazar sequence” (see, e.g., Padovani 2007).

**Table 6**  
Nonblazar Objects and Misaligned AGNs

| 4FGL Name     | Name                  | Type  | Photon Index    | Redshift/Distance (Mpc) |
|---------------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| J0009.7-3217  | IC 1531               | rdg   | $2.2 \pm 0.14$  | 93.4 <sup>a</sup>       |
| J0013.6+4051  | 4C +40.01             | agn   | $2.21 \pm 0.14$ | 0.255                   |
| J0038.7-0204  | 3C 17                 | rdg   | $2.81 \pm 0.11$ | 0.22                    |
| J0057.7+3023  | NGC 315               | rdg   | $2.35 \pm 0.11$ | 0.016                   |
| J0237.7+0206  | PKS 0235+017          | rdg   | $2.17 \pm 0.18$ | 0.022                   |
| J0308.4+0407  | NGC 1218              | rdg   | $2.0 \pm 0.06$  | 0.029                   |
| J0312.9+4119  | B3 0309+411B          | rdg   | $2.47 \pm 0.19$ | 0.136                   |
| J0316.8+4120  | IC 310                | rdg   | $1.78 \pm 0.18$ | 0.019                   |
| J0319.8+4130  | NGC 1275              | rdg   | $2.12 \pm 0.01$ | 0.69 <sup>a</sup>       |
| J0322.6-3712e | Fornax A              | rdg   | $2.05 \pm 0.07$ | 17.8 <sup>a</sup>       |
| J0324.8+3412  | 1H 0323+342           | nlsy1 | $2.82 \pm 0.04$ | 0.061                   |
| J0334.3+3920  | 4C +39.12             | rdg   | $1.9 \pm 0.13$  | 0.021                   |
| J0433.0+0522  | 3C 120                | rdg   | $2.72 \pm 0.05$ | 0.033                   |
| J0519.6-4544  | Pictor A              | rdg   | $2.46 \pm 0.13$ | 0.035                   |
| J0521.2+1637  | 3C 138                | css   | $2.37 \pm 0.13$ | 0.759                   |
| J0522.9-3628  | PKS 0521-36           | agn   | $2.45 \pm 0.01$ | 0.056                   |
| J0627.0-3529  | PKS 0625-35           | rdg   | $1.9 \pm 0.04$  | 0.055                   |
| J0708.9+4839  | NGC 2329              | rdg   | $1.95 \pm 0.18$ | 0.019                   |
| J0758.7+3746  | NGC 2484              | rdg   | $2.01 \pm 0.16$ | 171 <sup>a</sup>        |
| J0840.8+1317  | 3C 207                | ssrq  | $2.48 \pm 0.1$  | 0.681                   |
| J0850.0+5108  | SBS 0846+513          | nlsy1 | $2.27 \pm 0.02$ | 0.583                   |
| J0858.1+1405  | 3C 212                | ssrq  | $2.52 \pm 0.15$ | 1.048                   |
| J0910.0+4257  | 3C 216                | css   | $2.52 \pm 0.11$ | 0.67                    |
| J0931.9+6737  | NGC 2892              | rdg   | $2.23 \pm 0.06$ | 0.023                   |
| J0948.9+0022  | PMN J0948+0022        | nlsy1 | $2.64 \pm 0.02$ | 0.585                   |
| J1012.7+4228  | B3 1009+427           | agn   | $1.76 \pm 0.09$ | 0.365                   |
| J1116.6+2915  | B2 1113+29            | rdg   | $1.44 \pm 0.24$ | 0.047                   |
| J1118.2-0415  | PMN J1118-0413        | agn   | $2.64 \pm 0.08$ | ...                     |
| J1144.9+1937  | 3C 264                | rdg   | $1.94 \pm 0.1$  | 0.022                   |
| J1149.0+5924  | NGC 3894              | rdg   | $2.06 \pm 0.12$ | 46.9 <sup>a</sup>       |
| J1230.8+1223  | M87                   | rdg   | $2.06 \pm 0.04$ | 16.5 <sup>a</sup>       |
| J1305.3+5118  | IERS B1303+515        | nlsy1 | $2.85 \pm 0.17$ | 0.788                   |
| J1306.3+1113  | TXS 1303+114          | rdg   | $1.95 \pm 0.18$ | 0.086                   |
| J1306.7-2148  | PKS 1304-215          | rdg   | $2.13 \pm 0.09$ | 0.126                   |
| J1325.5-4300  | Cen A                 | rdg   | $2.65 \pm 0.02$ | 3.8 <sup>a</sup>        |
| J1331.0+3032  | 3C 286                | css   | $2.41 \pm 0.14$ | 0.85                    |
| J1356.2-1726  | PKS B1353-171         | agn   | $2.08 \pm 0.15$ | 0.075                   |
| J1443.1+5201  | 3C 303                | rdg   | $1.98 \pm 0.15$ | 0.141                   |
| J1443.1+4728  | B3 1441+476           | nlsy1 | $2.56 \pm 0.11$ | 0.705                   |
| J1449.5+2746  | B2 1447+27            | rdg   | $1.54 \pm 0.18$ | 0.031                   |
| J1449.7-0910  | 1RXS J144942.2-091018 | agn   | $2.04 \pm 0.18$ | ...                     |
| J1459.0+7140  | 3C 309.1              | css   | $2.45 \pm 0.09$ | 0.91                    |
| J1505.0+0326  | PKS 1502+036          | nlsy1 | $2.59 \pm 0.04$ | 0.409                   |
| J1516.5+0015  | PKS 1514+00           | rdg   | $2.59 \pm 0.11$ | 0.052                   |
| J1518.6+0614  | TXS 1516+064          | rdg   | $1.86 \pm 0.17$ | 0.102                   |
| J1521.1+0421  | PKS B1518+045         | rdg   | $2.06 \pm 0.15$ | 0.052                   |
| J1543.6+0452  | CGCG 050-083          | agn   | $1.87 \pm 0.08$ | 0.04                    |
| J1630.6+8234  | NGC 6251              | rdg   | $2.35 \pm 0.03$ | 98.2 <sup>a</sup>       |
| J1644.9+2620  | MG2 J164443+2618      | nlsy1 | $2.78 \pm 0.1$  | 0.144                   |
| J1724.2-6501  | NGC 6328              | rdg   | $2.49 \pm 0.18$ | 0.014                   |
| J1829.5+4845  | 3C 380                | css   | $2.43 \pm 0.03$ | 0.695                   |
| J1843.4-4835  | PKS 1839-48           | rdg   | $1.99 \pm 0.17$ | 0.111                   |
| J2007.9-4432  | PKS 2004-447          | nlsy1 | $2.6 \pm 0.05$  | 0.24                    |
| J2114.8+2026  | TXS 2112+202          | agn   | $2.13 \pm 0.16$ | ...                     |
| J2118.8-0723  | TXS 2116-077          | nlsy1 | $2.83 \pm 0.15$ | 0.26                    |
| J2156.0-6942  | PKS 2153-69           | rdg   | $2.83 \pm 0.11$ | 0.028                   |
| J2227.9-3031  | PKS 2225-308          | rdg   | $1.99 \pm 0.17$ | 0.056                   |
| J2302.8-1841  | PKS 2300-18           | rdg   | $2.17 \pm 0.15$ | 0.129                   |
| J2326.9-0201  | PKS 2324-02           | rdg   | $2.44 \pm 0.14$ | 0.188                   |
| J2329.7-2118  | PKS 2327-215          | rdg   | $2.45 \pm 0.16$ | 0.031                   |
| J2334.9-2346  | PKS 2331-240          | agn   | $2.42 \pm 0.12$ | 0.048                   |
| J2338.1+0325  | PKS 2335+03           | agn   | $2.36 \pm 0.15$ | 0.27                    |
| J2341.8-2917  | PKS 2338-295          | rdg   | $2.24 \pm 0.15$ | 0.052                   |

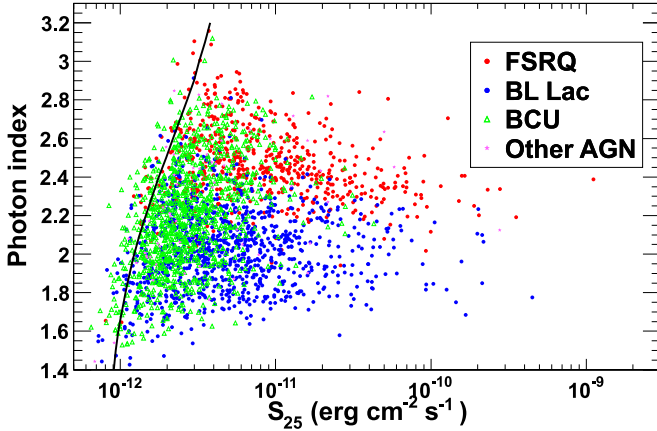
**Table 6**  
(Continued)

| 4FGL Name    | Name            | Type | Photon Index    | Redshift/Distance (Mpc) |
|--------------|-----------------|------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| J0153.4+7114 | TXS 0149+710    | rdg  | $1.9 \pm 0.11$  | 0.022                   |
| J0418.2+3807 | 3C 111          | rdg  | $2.71 \pm 0.06$ | 0.05                    |
| J1236.9-7232 | PKS 1234-723    | rdg  | $2.36 \pm 0.14$ | 0.024                   |
| J1346.3-6026 | Cen B           | rdg  | $2.4 \pm 0.05$  | 0.013                   |
| J1413.1-6519 | Circinus galaxy | sey  | $2.25 \pm 0.1$  | 4.0 <sup>a</sup>        |
| J1824.7-3243 | PKS 1821-327    | agn  | $2.23 \pm 0.12$ | 0.355                   |

**Note.** The table includes the nonblazar objects and MAGNs at high latitudes (top) and low latitudes (bottom) associated with 4FGL sources (Cen A Core and Cen A Lobes constitute a single object).

<sup>a</sup> Indicates that the value is the distance in Mpc.

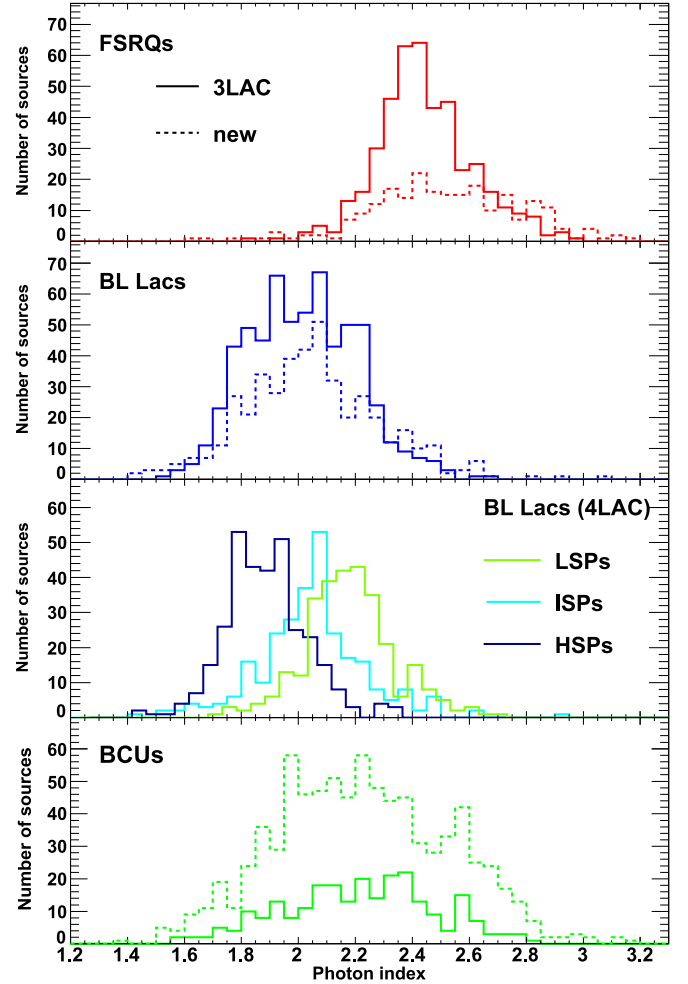
(This table is available in machine-readable form.)



**Figure 4.** Photon index as a function of energy flux above 100 MeV. Curve represents the approximate detection limit. Error bars have been omitted for clarity. Mean photon-index uncertainties are 0.08, 0.10, and 0.14 for FSRQs, BL Lacs, and BCUs, respectively.

Some blazars have undergone statistically significant spectral changes since 3LAC: PKS 1349–439 (BL Lac,  $\Delta\Gamma \equiv \Gamma_{4\text{FGL}} - \Gamma_{3\text{FGL}} = -0.37 \pm 0.12$ ), RX J1415.5+4830 (BL Lac,  $\Delta\Gamma = -0.70 \pm 0.16$ ), PKS 1532+01 (FSRQ,  $\Delta\Gamma = -0.41 \pm 0.12$ ), and S4 1800+44 (FSRQ,  $\Delta\Gamma = -0.33 \pm 0.09$ ). The changes in photon index are all such that  $\Gamma_{4\text{FGL}}$  is closer to the median of the class than was  $\Gamma_{3\text{FGL}}$ . Inspection of the light curves reveals that all four sources show enhanced activity in the last 4 yr of the 4LAC period relative to that of 3LAC, which may be correlated with the observed spectral hardening. Fourteen other sources have experienced spectral variations greater than  $3\sigma$  but of lower amplitudes than these four.

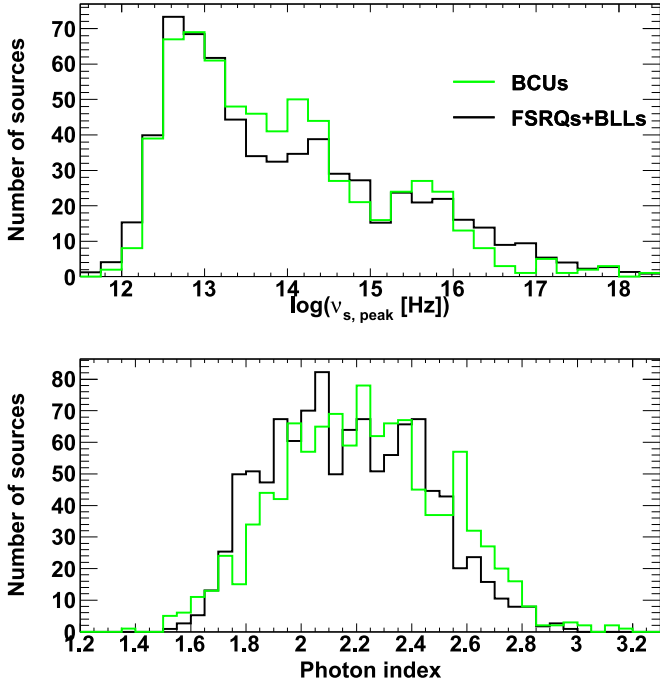
As noted above, many FSRQs and BL Lacs show significant spectral curvature. The comparison of the TS distributions of sources with significantly curved spectra to those of the whole sample of FSRQs and BL Lacs (Figure 8) demonstrates that essentially all bright blazars have curved spectra in the LAT energy range. A total of 212 FSRQs, 172 BL Lacs, and 70 BCUs have significantly curved spectra. To enable comparison, if we apply the more stringent threshold on the curvature significance (i.e., approximately  $4\sigma$  instead of  $3\sigma$ ) used in 3LAC, these numbers become 146 FSRQs, 112 BL Lacs, and 26 BCUs. In 3LAC, the comparable numbers were 57, 32, and 8, respectively. It is therefore likely that fainter blazars have curved spectra as well, but the current data do not allow their curvature to be established with high confidence.



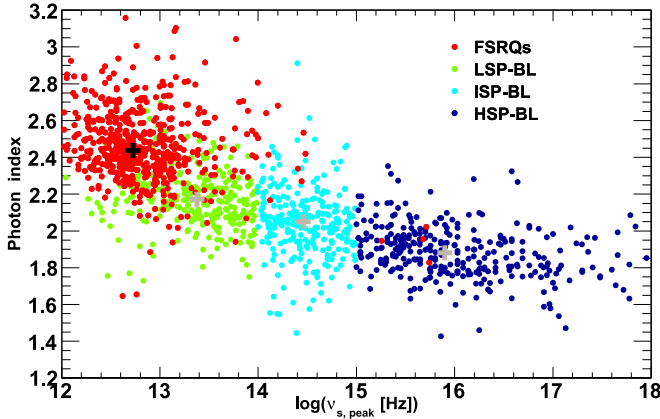
**Figure 5.** Photon index distributions for the different blazar classes and subclasses. In the top, second from top, and bottom panels, the solid histograms represent the 4LAC sources already present in 3LAC and the dashed histograms the new 4LAC sources.

## 5.2. Redshifts

We conducted a literature search for spectroscopic redshifts. Well-established redshifts (999) came from BZCAT or the optical campaigns mentioned in Section 3.3.1. For the other sources (656), remaining contamination from photometric values or from bad signal-to-noise ratio optical spectra cannot be excluded. We found redshifts for all the FSRQs, but were unable to find those for 36% of the BL Lacs in our sample.



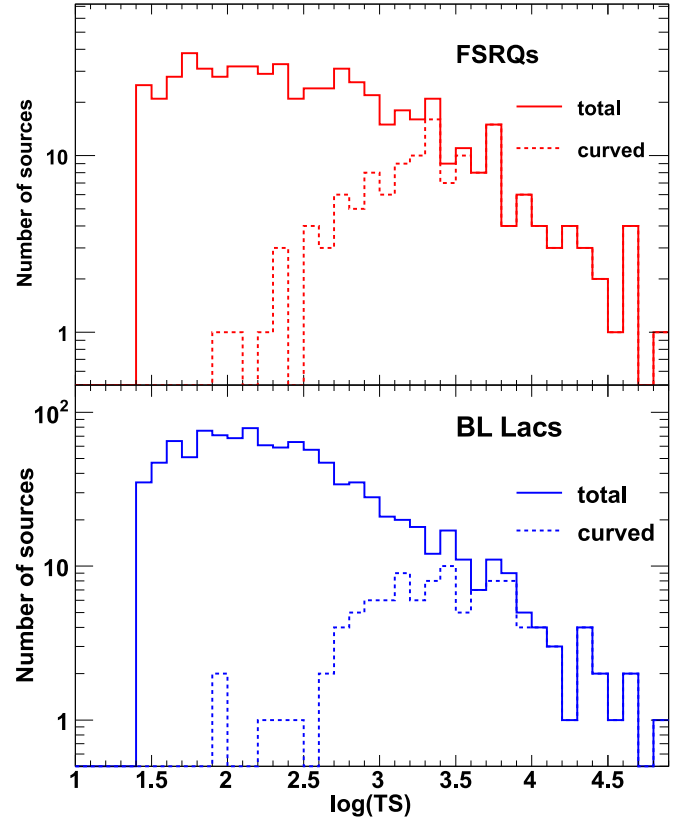
**Figure 6.** Comparison between the  $\nu_{s, \text{peak}}$  (top) and photon index (bottom) distributions of BCUs (green) and the (normalized) distributions obtained by adding up the FSRQ and BL Lac distributions (black). See text for details.



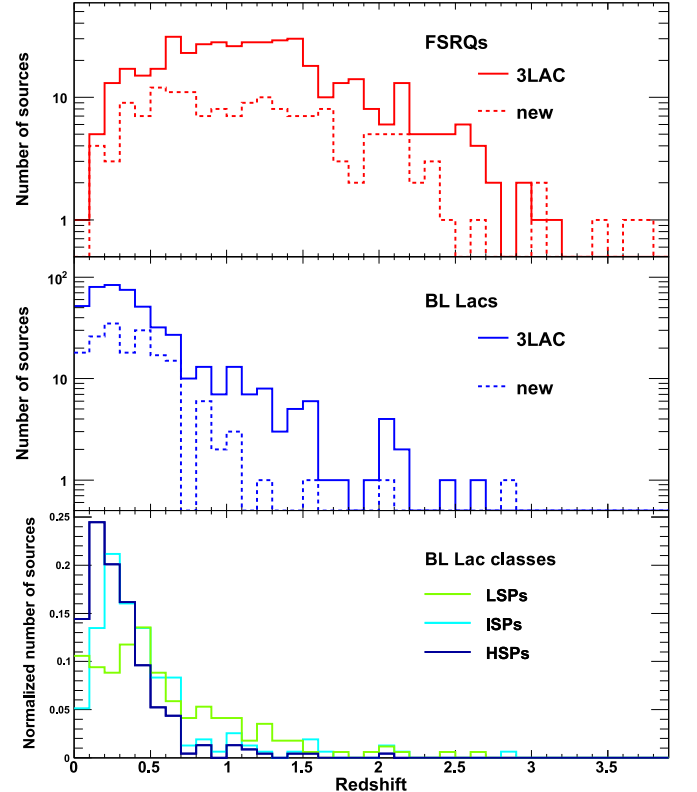
**Figure 7.** Photon index vs. frequency of the synchrotron peak  $\nu_{s, \text{peak}}$  in the observer frame. Error bars have been omitted for clarity. The mean photon-index uncertainties are 0.08 and 0.10 for FSRQs and BL Lacs, respectively. Black cross depicts the FSRQ median photon index, while gray crosses depict those for the three BL Lac subclasses.

(compared to 50% of the BL Lacs without redshifts in 3LAC). This clear improvement has been primarily achieved thanks to follow-up observations of 3LAC blazars (see Section 3.3.1 for references). The fraction without redshifts is similar for the three BL Lac subclasses (41%, 42%, and 28% for LSPs, ISPs, and HSPs, respectively).

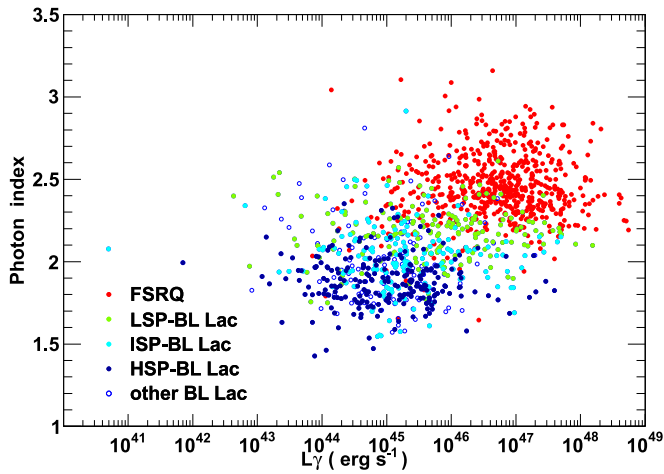
The redshift distributions are displayed in Figure 9 for FSRQs and BL Lacs. The FSRQ distribution shows a broad peak around  $z = 1$ . This trend confirms the conclusion that the number density of FSRQs grows dramatically up to redshift  $\approx 0.5$ – $2.0$  and declines thereafter (Ajello et al. 2012). For BL Lacs, the overall peak lies at  $z \approx 0.3$ . For the sake of comparison, the distributions for previously and newly reported AGNs are plotted separately. The redshifts of the 3LAC and newly detected blazars are similar, with respective medians and



**Figure 8.** TS distributions of FSRQs (top) and BL Lacs (bottom) for curved-spectra sources and the whole sample.



**Figure 9.** Redshift distributions, where solid lines indicate 4LAC sources also in 3LAC and dashed lines signify new 4LAC sources, for FSRQs (top) and BL Lacs (bottom).



**Figure 10.** Photon index vs. gamma-ray luminosity for the different blazar classes and subclasses. Error bars have been omitted for clarity. Mean photon-index uncertainties are 0.08 and 0.10 for FSRQs and BL Lacs, respectively.

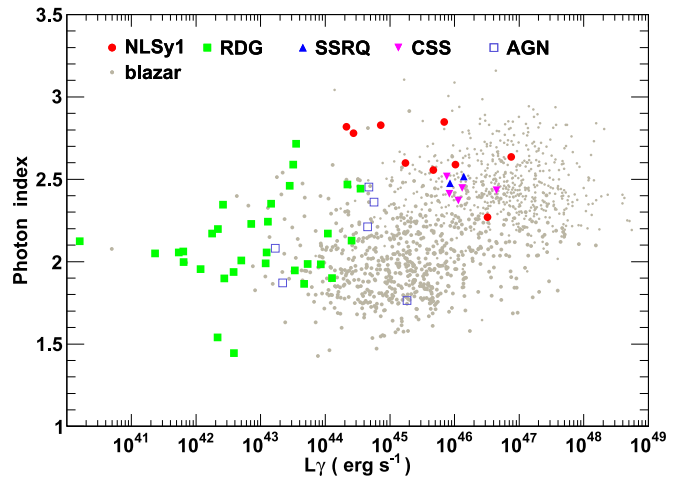
widths of  $1.14 \pm 0.62$  and  $1.09 \pm 0.68$  for FSRQs, and of  $0.34 \pm 0.42$  and  $0.36 \pm 0.34$  for BL Lacs. The median redshifts decrease between BL Lac LSPs, ISPs, and HSPs from 0.47 to 0.36 to 0.25, respectively. While the maximum redshift for an FSRQ was 3.1 in earlier LAC catalogs, five counterparts to 4LAC sources have higher redshifts: GB 1508+5714 ( $z = 4.31$ ), PKS 1351–018 ( $z = 3.72$ ), PKS 0335–122 ( $z = 3.44$ ), MG3 J163554+3629 ( $z = 3.65$ ), and PMN J0833–0454 ( $z = 3.45$ ). GB 1508+5714 and PKS 0335–122 are not present in the Clean Sample, however, due to analysis flags. The detections of three of these sources (PKS 1351–018, GB 1508+5714, MG3 J163554+3629) were reported earlier in Ackermann et al. (2017). Two other high- $z$  sources (NVSS J064632+445116 and NVSS J212912–153841), whose detections were also announced in Ackermann et al. (2017), are absent in the 4FGL/4LAC, possibly due to variability effects.

Figure 10 displays the photon index versus the gamma-ray luminosity for the different blazar classes. The trend of softer spectra with higher luminosity observed in earlier catalogs is confirmed. We reiterate the word of caution expressed in 3LAC: this trend is only significant when considering the whole sample of 4LAC blazars. It is not significant when considering the different blazar classes/subclasses individually. Figure 11 shows the corresponding plot for the nonblazar sources. Radio galaxies show a large scatter in photon index, while sources of the other classes have fairly soft spectra akin to those of FSRQs.

### 5.3. Variability

Variability is a key property of blazars and is known to depend on the energy band considered (e.g., Aleksić et al. 2015). This feature can be naturally explained as emitting electrons (assuming a leptonic scenario) of different energies, and thus different acceleration/cooling times contribute preferentially to the distinct bands. The assessment of variability in 4FGL does not only depend on intrinsic variability, but also on the overall significance of the source detection. Two different values of the variability index<sup>79</sup> are provided in 4FGL, derived

<sup>79</sup> The variability index is defined as twice the sum of the  $\log(\text{Likelihood})$  difference between the flux fitted in each time interval and the average flux over the full catalog interval.



**Figure 11.** Photon index vs. gamma-ray luminosity for the different nonblazar classes. Blazars are included for comparison and depicted in gray regardless of their classes. Error bars have been omitted for clarity. Mean photon-index uncertainty is 0.11 for the nonblazar AGNs.

from the sets of 1 yr and 2 month light curves. The 1 yr light curves allow the variability of fainter sources to be established compared to the monthly light curves used in early FGL catalogs. Because the variability indices are distributed as  $\chi^2$  functions with  $N_{\text{dof}}$  degrees of freedom, a source is defined as variable if at least one of the variability indices is greater than the 99% confidence limit of 18.48 and 72.44 for the 1 yr ( $N_{\text{dof}} = 7$ ) and 2 month ( $N_{\text{dof}} = 47$ ) light curves, respectively.

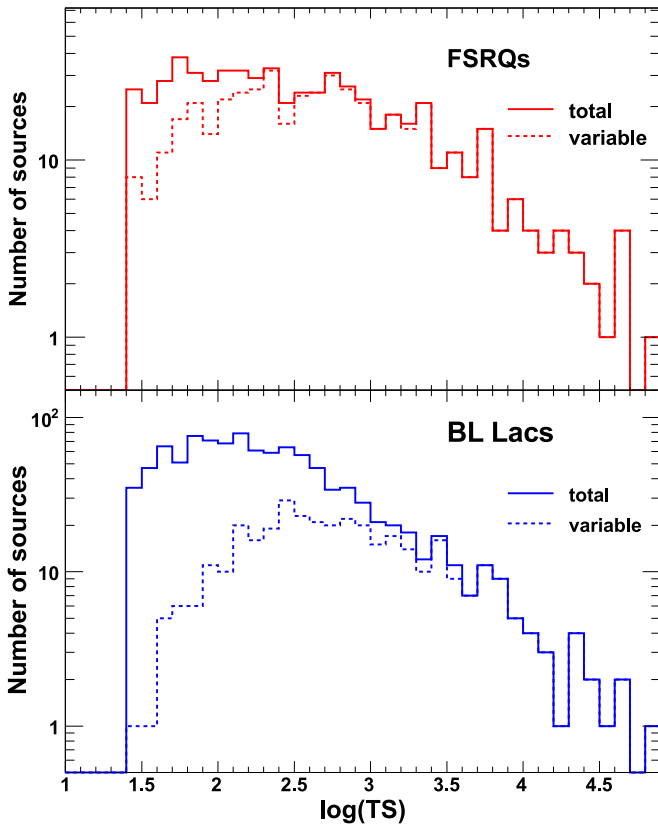
Figure 12 displays the TS distributions of variable sources compared to those of the whole sets of FSRQs and BL Lacs. All bright blazars are found to be variable. The fraction of variable sources goes down from 79% (464/591) for FSRQs to 35% for BL Lacs (362/1027). A monotonic trend is observed for the BL Lac subclasses, with fractions of 49% (140/288), 36% (98/270), and 31% (98/316) for LSPs, ISPs, and HSPs, respectively. Only 17% (157/941) of the BCUs show variability, as expected from the fact that these sources tend to be fainter (Section 5.1). The median fractional variability amplitude is 0.63 for FSRQs and 0.27 for BL Lacs. More extended studies about variability of the LAT-detected blazars can be found in the 3LAC paper.

Among the radio galaxies, IC 310, NGC 1275, 3C 120, NCG 1218, 3C 111, NGC 2892, and IC 4516 are found to be variable, hinting at a blazar-like behavior for these sources. All NLSy1s show significant variability, except for IERS B1303+515, B3 1441+476, TXS 2116–077. Three out of five CSS sources are variable (3C 138, 3C 309.1, 3C 380), as well as one SSRQ (3C 207). The three variable sources of the AGN class are: PKS 0521–36, PMN J1118–0413, and CGCG 050–083.

### 5.4. Potential Transiently Detected AGNs Missing in 4LAC

Some *Fermi*-LAT sources show blazar-like flaring activity during limited time intervals but do not meet the detection significance criterion to be included in the 4FGL, which is based on a summed 8 yr data set. We present here information about some of these transient sources spatially consistent with AGNs.

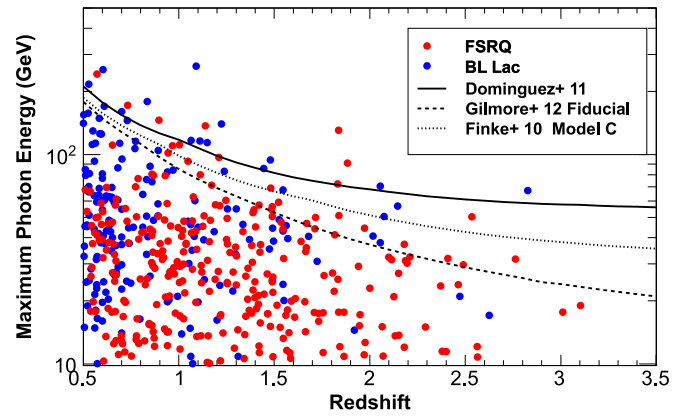
When undergoing periods of enhanced activity in 6 hr and 1 day time intervals, some sources can be caught in near-real time by the *Fermi*-LAT Flare Advocate Gamma-ray Sky Watcher (FAGSW) service (Ciprini & *Fermi*-LAT Collaboration 2012;



**Figure 12.** TS distributions of FSRQs (top) and BL Lacs (bottom) for variable sources and the whole sample.

Thompson et al. 2015, and references therein). The brightest sources are often reported to the community in Astronomer’s Telegrams (ATels). A total of 371 ATels (plus three errata) were posted on behalf of the LAT Collaboration in the 8 yr period considered in the 4FGL/4LAC (2008 August 4 to 2016 August 2), and a total of 472 ATels were published from 2008 July 24 (ATel 1628) to 2019 August 15 (ATel 13032). At the time of writing, announced transient sources that were positionally consistent with blazars or other AGNs include: NVSS J104516+275136 (ATel 12906); S5 0532+82 (ATel 12902; PKS 2247–131 (ATels 9285, 9620, 11141); PKS 1915–458 ( $z = 2.47$ , ATels 2666, 2679, and already reported as missing in the 3FGL/3LAC catalogs); TXS 0135+291 (ATel 12888); 2MASX J15441967–0649156 ( $z \simeq 0.04$ , ATel 10482); PKS 1251–71 (ATel 8215), PMN J0508–5628 (ATel 6658); PMN J2010–2524 ( $z = 0.825$ , ATel 6553); TXS 1731+152A (ATel 6395, 6410); PKS 2136–642 (ATel 5695); and PKS 1510–319 ( $z = 1.71$ , ATel 2528).

Sources detected on a one-week timescale were reported in the Second *Fermi*-LAT All-sky Variability Analysis (FAVA) Catalog (2FAV, Abdollahi et al. 2017), based on the first 7.4 yr of *Fermi*-LAT mission data. In the FAVA catalog,<sup>80</sup> the analysis was run in 100–800 MeV and 0.8–300 GeV energy bands, leading to the identification of 518 flaring gamma-ray sources. Among these sources, 13 were associated with established blazars or blazar candidates that are included in neither 4LAC nor 3LAC: PMN J0231–4746, 2MASS J06164292–4021527, TXS 0723+220, 4C +38.28 (B2 0913



**Figure 13.** Energy of the highest-energy photon vs. redshift. Curves display the energies corresponding to an optical depth of 1 as predicted by different models.

+39), PKS 1200–051, PMN J1322–8419, PKS 1354–17, RX J1410.5+6100, PKS 1510–319, TXS 1534+378, TXS 1731+152A, PKS 1824–582, 1RXS J235018.0–055928.

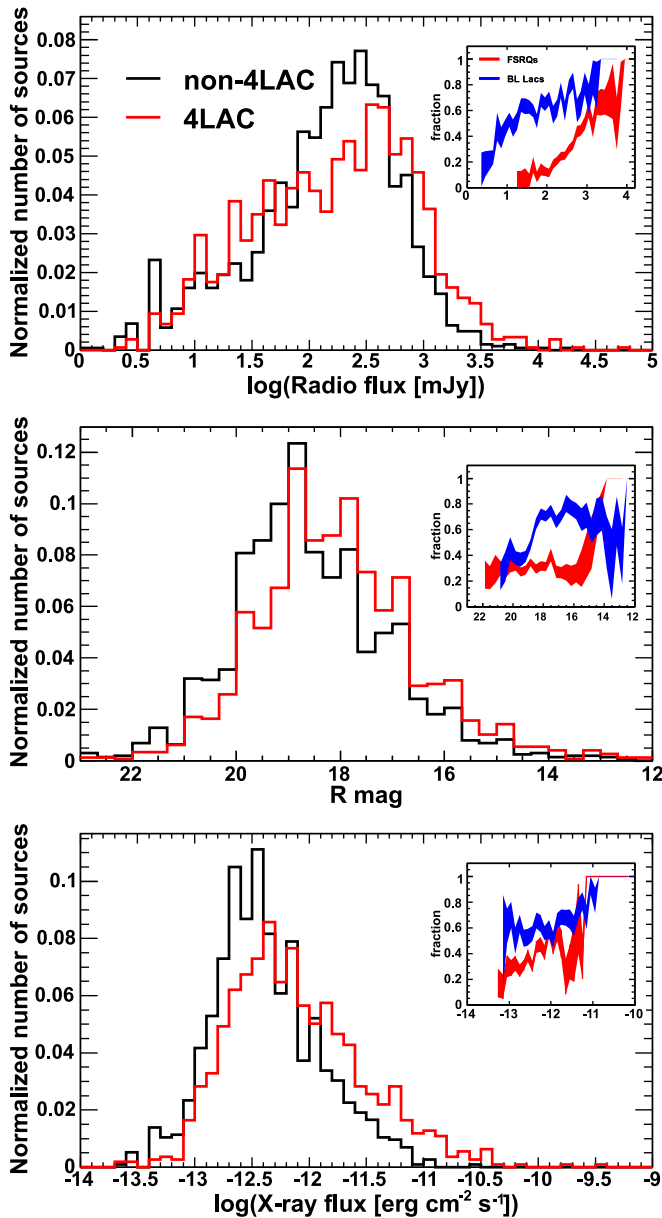
For longer timescales, the first catalog of gamma-ray transient sources (1FLT, The *Fermi* LAT Collaboration in preparation) reports detections on monthly time intervals during the first 96 months of *Fermi*-LAT operation. This catalog contains 64 new gamma-ray sources not present in 4LAC/4FGL or earlier LAT catalogs. Their mean photon spectral index  $\Gamma$  of 2.6 indicates softer spectra than exhibited by the 4LAC sources (mean  $\Gamma \sim 2.2$ ). These new sources include 24 BCUs (e.g., PKS 1649–031, TXS 0209+168, TXS 1601+160, PKS 2108–326 and others), 20 FSRQs (e.g., PKS 1524–13, TXS 1226+046, PKS 1200–051, PMN J2010–2524, PKS 1706+006 and others), one BL Lac object (1RXS J12100.6+014515), one NLSy1 (Mkn 1501), and two radio galaxies (S5 1733+71 and PKS 2236–364).

### 5.5. Highest-energy Photons

The highest-energy photons detected for each source were selected within the purest—i.e., with the lowest instrumental background—class (P8R3\_ULTRACLEANVETO\_V2). Based on the energy-dependent PSF, we required a probability<sup>81</sup> greater than 0.95 for the photons to belong to the source being considered. Blazar gamma-ray spectra provide insight into the density of the EBL via the effect of photon-photon absorption, often defined in terms of an optical depth  $\tau = 1$ , where a photon has only a  $1/e$  probability of reaching the observer (e.g., Abdollahi et al. 2018). A comparison between the energy of the highest-energy photon measured for a given source with the energy computed for  $\tau = 1$  at that redshift by theoretical models of the EBL provides a simple and direct test of these models. Figure 13 compares the 4LAC highest-energy photons with the optical depth predictions of Finke et al. (2010), Domínguez et al. (2011), and Gilmore et al. (2012). Only a few photons exceed the  $\tau = 1$  mark, thus remaining compatible with the predictions of these models.

<sup>80</sup> <https://fermi.gsfc.nasa.gov/ssc/data/access/lat/FAVA/>

<sup>81</sup> This probability is derived via the source-to-background ratio defined in appendix A of the 1FGL paper (Abdo et al. 2010b) and implemented in the adaptive-binning package available at <https://fermi.gsfc.nasa.gov/ssc/data/analysis/user/>.



**Figure 14.** From top to bottom: radio flux density at 1.4 GHz, optical R magnitude, X-ray flux (0.1–2.4 keV) distributions for 4LAC (red) and non-4LAC (black) BZCAT sources. Insets show the fraction of 4LAC sources relative to the total for a given flux. Error bars have been omitted for clarity.

### 5.6. Gamma-Ray-detected versus Nondetected Blazars

The blazars detected in gamma-rays after 8 yr of LAT operation represent a sizable fraction of the whole population of known blazars as listed in BZCAT. This catalog represents an exhaustive list of all sources ever classified as blazars, but is by no means complete. Although a comparison between the gamma-ray-detected and nondetected blazars within that sample has no strong statistical meaning in terms of relative weights, it is nevertheless useful to look for general trends.

In total, the 4LAC includes 29% (562/1909), 66% (764/1151), and 38% (88/227) of the BZCAT (Massaro et al. 2015) FSRQs, BL Lacs, and BCUs, respectively. Out of the 1353 new 4FGL sources, 405 are present in BZCAT. Figure 14 compares the distributions of radio flux at 1.4 GHz, optical R-band magnitude, and X-ray (0.1–2.4 keV) fluxes for the gamma-ray-detected and nondetected BZCAT blazars, as

well as the fraction of gamma-ray-detected blazars relative to the total as a function of the different fluxes. The gamma-ray-detected blazars are somewhat brighter on average in all bands, confirming previous findings (Lister et al. 2011; Böck et al. 2016; Paliya et al. 2017). The fraction of 4LAC blazars in the total population of BZCAT blazars remains non-negligible even at the faint ends of the radio, optical, and X-ray flux distributions, in particular for BL Lacs. This observation is a clue that even the faintest known blazars could eventually shine in gamma-rays at LAT-detection levels.

### 5.7. Sources Detected at Very High Energies

Table 7 shows the list of 78 AGNs detected by ground-based Cerenkov telescopes, as listed in TeVCat.<sup>82</sup> All are present in 4LAC, and the table shows their optical and SED-based classes, redshifts, and 4LAC photon indices. The 3LAC catalog included 55 of the 56 VHE AGNs with detections published or announced at that time; only HESS J1943+213 was missing. The overall mean of the 4LAC photon indices for these VHE AGNs is  $1.91 \pm 0.20$ . For the most numerous subclass, the HSP BL Lacs, we find the mean index to be  $1.81 \pm 0.08$ , i.e., a very hard gamma-ray spectrum. Of the 78, 56 4LAC AGNs are variable at a significance greater than 99%.

### 5.8. Miscellaneous Notes About Individual Sources

In the course of the 4LAC analysis, we found a number of individual sources that have changed classification or have unclear associations. We include this information about them for completeness. In case of conflicting associations, we only retained the most probable one in the 4LAC catalog.

1. 4FGL J0140.6–0758 is associated with the BL Lac RX J0140.7–0758. Another object, SDSS J014040.63–075857.2, is located  $9''$  away (i.e.,  $0.04r_{95}$ , where  $r_{95}$  is the 95% confidence radius), at a redshift of 2.674 coming from a broad-line SDSS optical spectrum. This source has no reported radio emission.
2. 4FGL J0242.3+5216 has two possible high-confidence associations: with GB6 J0242+5209 and TXS 0239+520, which have similar brightness in the radio band.
3. 4FGL J0337.8–1157 is associated with PKS 0335–122, a distant FSRQ at  $z = 3.442$  that has a damped Ly $\alpha$  absorption system at  $z = 3.180$  along the line of sight (Kanekar & Chengalur 2003).
4. 4FGL J0618.1+7819 is associated with the starburst galaxy NGC 2146 ( $z = 0.002975$ ), but the FSRQ 6C 060948+781625 ( $z = 1.43$ ) has a similar association probability.
5. 4FGL J0647.7–4418 is associated with the high-mass X-ray binary RX J0648.0–4418 in 4FGL, but the blazar candidate SUMSS J064744–441946 has a just barely lower association probability (0.80 versus 0.85).
6. 4FGL J0720.0–6237 is associated with the FSRQ PMN J0716–6240, but another FSRQ, PMN J0719–6218, lies just outside the 95% confidence region and might contribute to the gamma-ray emission.
7. 4FGL J0814.4+2941 is associated with the BL Lac EXO 0811.2+2949, but a broad-line quasar, SDSS J081425.89+294115.6, also lies within the 95% confidence region.

<sup>82</sup> <http://tevcat.uchicago.edu/>, as of 2019 March.

**Table 7**  
Properties of the 4LAC VHE AGNs

| 4FGL<br>Name | Name                         | Source<br>Class | SED<br>Type | Redshift | Photon<br>Index | Variability<br>Index <sup>a</sup> |
|--------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|----------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| J0013.9-1854 | RBS 0030                     | bll             | HSP         | 0.09     | $1.97 \pm 0.1$  | 2.61                              |
| J0033.5-1921 | KUV 00311-1938               | bll             | HSP         | 0.61     | $1.77 \pm 0.02$ | 27.17                             |
| J0035.9+5950 | 1ES 0033+595 <sup>b</sup>    | bll             | HSP         | ...      | $1.75 \pm 0.02$ | 149.76                            |
| J0112.1+2245 | S2 0109+22                   | bll             | LSP         | 0.26     | $2.07 \pm 0.01$ | 313.15                            |
| J0136.5+3906 | B3 0133+388                  | bll             | HSP         | ...      | $1.71 \pm 0.02$ | 51.08                             |
| J0152.6+0147 | PMN J0152+0146               | bll             | HSP         | 0.08     | $1.96 \pm 0.06$ | 15.23                             |
| J0214.3+5145 | TXS 0210+515 <sup>b</sup>    | bll             | HSP         | 0.05     | $1.88 \pm 0.09$ | 11.2                              |
| J0221.1+3556 | B2 0218+357                  | fsrq            | LSP         | 0.94     | $2.29 \pm 0.01$ | 3327.03                           |
| J0222.6+4302 | 3C 66A                       | bll             | ISP         | 0.44     | $1.96 \pm 0.01$ | 976.11                            |
| J0232.8+2018 | 1ES 0229+200                 | bll             | HSP         | 0.14     | $1.78 \pm 0.11$ | 4.36                              |
| J0238.4-3116 | 1RXS J023832.6-311658        | bll             | HSP         | 0.23     | $1.8 \pm 0.04$  | 33.44                             |
| J0303.4-2407 | PKS 0301-243                 | bll             | HSP         | 0.27     | $1.9 \pm 0.02$  | 253.95                            |
| J0316.8+4120 | IC 310                       | rdg             | ISP         | 0.02     | $1.78 \pm 0.18$ | 19.86                             |
| J0319.8+4130 | NGC 1275                     | rdg             | LSP         | 0.02     | $2.12 \pm 0.01$ | 1970.98                           |
| J0319.8+1845 | 1E 0317.0+1835               | bll             | HSP         | 0.19     | $1.67 \pm 0.07$ | 32.33                             |
| J0349.4-1159 | 1ES 0347-121                 | bll             | HSP         | 0.19     | $1.76 \pm 0.1$  | 10.0                              |
| J0416.9+0105 | 1ES 0414+009                 | bll             | HSP         | 0.29     | $1.89 \pm 0.07$ | 9.76                              |
| J0449.4-4350 | PKS 0447-439                 | bll             | HSP         | 0.2      | $1.85 \pm 0.01$ | 55.2                              |
| J0507.9+6737 | 1ES 0502+675                 | bll             | HSP         | 0.42     | $1.58 \pm 0.03$ | 39.18                             |
| J0509.4+0542 | TXS 0506+056                 | bll             | ISP         | 0.34     | $2.08 \pm 0.02$ | 245.91                            |
| J0521.7+2112 | TXS 0518+211 <sup>b</sup>    | bll             | HSP         | 0.11     | $1.92 \pm 0.01$ | 682.16                            |
| J0550.5-3216 | PKS 0548-322                 | bll             | HSP         | 0.07     | $1.89 \pm 0.1$  | 5.98                              |
| J0627.0-3529 | PKS 0625-35                  | rdg             | HSP         | 0.05     | $1.9 \pm 0.04$  | 11.56                             |
| J0648.7+1516 | RX J0648.7+1516 <sup>b</sup> | bll             | HSP         | 0.18     | $1.7 \pm 0.04$  | 3.2                               |
| J0650.7+2503 | 1ES 0647+250                 | bll             | HSP         | 0.2      | $1.74 \pm 0.02$ | 117.43                            |
| J0710.4+5908 | 1H 0658+595                  | bll             | HSP         | 0.13     | $1.68 \pm 0.05$ | 26.55                             |
| J0721.9+7120 | S5 0716+71                   | bll             | ISP         | 0.13     | $2.06 \pm 0.01$ | 1554.68                           |
| J0733.4+5152 | NVSS J073326+515355          | bcu             | HSP         | 0.06     | $1.8 \pm 0.1$   | 14.97                             |
| J0739.2+0137 | PKS 0736+01                  | fsrq            | LSP         | 0.19     | $2.41 \pm 0.02$ | 1983.59                           |
| J0809.8+5218 | 1ES 0806+524                 | bll             | HSP         | 0.14     | $1.88 \pm 0.02$ | 290.4                             |
| J0847.2+1134 | RX J0847.1+1133              | bll             | ISP         | 0.2      | $1.72 \pm 0.08$ | 8.47                              |
| J0854.8+2006 | OJ 287                       | bll             | LSP         | 0.31     | $2.23 \pm 0.01$ | 611.67                            |
| J0958.7+6534 | S4 0954+65                   | bll             | LSP         | 0.37     | $2.21 \pm 0.02$ | 2012.73                           |
| J1010.2-3119 | 1RXS J101015.9-311909        | bll             | HSP         | 0.14     | $1.75 \pm 0.07$ | 34.16                             |
| J1015.0+4926 | 1H 1013+498                  | bll             | HSP         | 0.21     | $1.84 \pm 0.01$ | 195.6                             |
| J1103.6-2329 | 1ES 1101-232                 | bll             | HSP         | 0.19     | $1.73 \pm 0.08$ | 10.7                              |
| J1104.4+3812 | Mkn 421                      | bll             | HSP         | 0.03     | $1.78 \pm 0.01$ | 1028.05                           |
| J1136.4+6736 | RX J1136.5+6737              | bll             | HSP         | 0.14     | $1.75 \pm 0.05$ | 23.5                              |
| J1136.4+7009 | Mkn 180                      | bll             | HSP         | 0.05     | $1.8 \pm 0.03$  | 20.39                             |
| J1144.9+1937 | 3C 264                       | rdg             | HSP         | 0.02     | $1.94 \pm 0.1$  | 4.15                              |
| J1159.5+2914 | Ton 599                      | fsrq            | LSP         | 0.73     | $2.26 \pm 0.01$ | 1391.63                           |
| J1217.9+3007 | B2 1215+30                   | bll             | HSP         | 0.13     | $1.95 \pm 0.01$ | 396.98                            |
| J1221.3+3010 | PG 1218+304                  | bll             | HSP         | 0.18     | $1.71 \pm 0.02$ | 44.28                             |
| J1221.5+2814 | W Comae                      | bll             | ISP         | 0.1      | $2.16 \pm 0.02$ | 243.32                            |
| J1224.4+2436 | MS 1221.8+2452               | bll             | HSP         | 0.22     | $1.89 \pm 0.04$ | 148.48                            |
| J1224.9+2122 | 4C +21.35                    | fsrq            | LSP         | 0.43     | $2.33 \pm 0.01$ | 17566.6                           |
| J1230.2+2517 | ON 246                       | bll             | ISP         | 0.14     | $2.09 \pm 0.02$ | 1651.75                           |
| J1230.8+1223 | M87                          | rdg             | ISP         | 0.01     | $2.06 \pm 0.04$ | 16.98                             |
| J1256.1-0547 | 3C 279                       | fsrq            | LSP         | 0.54     | $2.34 \pm 0.01$ | 5667.24                           |
| J1315.0-4236 | MS 13121-4221                | bll             | HSP         | 0.1      | $1.72 \pm 0.1$  | 6.61                              |
| J1325.5-4300 | Cen A                        | rdg             | LSP         | 0.01     | $2.65 \pm 0.02$ | 8.25                              |
| J1427.0+2348 | PKS 1424+240                 | bll             | HSP         | 0.6      | $1.82 \pm 0.01$ | 205.42                            |
| J1428.5+4240 | H 1426+428                   | bll             | HSP         | 0.13     | $1.66 \pm 0.05$ | 14.91                             |
| J1442.7+1200 | 1ES 1440+122                 | bll             | HSP         | 0.16     | $1.8 \pm 0.07$  | 10.06                             |
| J1443.9-3908 | PKS 1440-389                 | bll             | HSP         | 0.07     | $1.82 \pm 0.02$ | 22.05                             |
| J1443.9+2501 | PKS 1441+25                  | fsrq            | LSP         | 0.94     | $2.08 \pm 0.02$ | 2858.38                           |
| J1512.8-0906 | PKS 1510-089                 | fsrq            | LSP         | 0.36     | $2.38 \pm 0.01$ | 4421.04                           |
| J1517.7-2422 | AP Librae                    | bll             | LSP         | 0.05     | $2.12 \pm 0.02$ | 90.89                             |
| J1518.0-2731 | TXS 1515-273                 | bll             | HSP         | ...      | $2.06 \pm 0.05$ | 57.84                             |
| J1555.7+1111 | PG 1553+113                  | bll             | HSP         | 0.36     | $1.68 \pm 0.01$ | 74.97                             |
| J1653.8+3945 | Mkn 501                      | bll             | HSP         | 0.03     | $1.75 \pm 0.01$ | 292.85                            |
| J1725.0+1152 | 1H 1720+117                  | bll             | HSP         | 0.18     | $1.86 \pm 0.02$ | 13.33                             |
| J1728.3+5013 | I Zw 187                     | bll             | HSP         | 0.05     | $1.78 \pm 0.03$ | 164.28                            |

**Table 7**  
(Continued)

| 4FGL<br>Name | Name                          | Source<br>Class | SED<br>Type | Redshift | Photon<br>Index | Variability<br>Index <sup>a</sup> |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|----------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| J1744.0+1935 | S3 1741+19                    | bll             | HSP         | 0.08     | $1.93 \pm 0.05$ | 10.72                             |
| J1751.5+0938 | OT 081                        | bll             | LSP         | 0.32     | $2.26 \pm 0.02$ | 884.58                            |
| J1944.0+2117 | MG2 J194359+2118 <sup>b</sup> | bcu             | ...         | ...      | $1.53 \pm 0.09$ | 15.42                             |
| J2000.0+6508 | IES 1959+650                  | bll             | HSP         | 0.05     | $1.82 \pm 0.01$ | 1052.41                           |
| J2001.2+4353 | MG4 J200112+4352 <sup>b</sup> | bll             | HSP         | ...      | $1.95 \pm 0.02$ | 1027.21                           |
| J2009.4+4849 | PKS 2005-489                  | bll             | HSP         | 0.07     | $1.83 \pm 0.02$ | 135.08                            |
| J2039.5+5218 | IES 2037+521 <sup>b</sup>     | bll             | HSP         | 0.05     | $1.88 \pm 0.09$ | 4.58                              |
| J2056.7+4939 | RGB J2056+496 <sup>b</sup>    | bcu             | HSP         | ...      | $1.85 \pm 0.04$ | 23.86                             |
| J2158.8-3013 | PKS 2155-304                  | bll             | HSP         | 0.12     | $1.85 \pm 0.01$ | 646.95                            |
| J2202.7+4216 | BL Lac                        | bll             | LSP         | 0.07     | $2.23 \pm 0.01$ | 2474.03                           |
| J2243.9+2021 | RGB J2243+203                 | bll             | HSP         | ...      | $1.86 \pm 0.02$ | 116.39                            |
| J2250.0+3825 | B3 2247+381                   | bll             | HSP         | 0.12     | $1.72 \pm 0.06$ | 24.53                             |
| J2324.7-4041 | IES 2322-409                  | bll             | HSP         | 0.17     | $1.78 \pm 0.05$ | 49.44                             |
| J2347.0+5141 | IES 2344+514 <sup>b</sup>     | bll             | HSP         | 0.04     | $1.81 \pm 0.02$ | 56.97                             |
| J2359.0-3038 | H 2356-309                    | bll             | HSP         | 0.17     | $1.93 \pm 0.07$ | 1.77                              |

**Notes.**

<sup>a</sup> A variability index greater than 18.47 indicates that the source is variable at a significance greater than 99%.

<sup>b</sup> Refers to low-latitude sources (not in 4LAC).

(This table is available in machine-readable form.)

8. 4FGL J0941.9+2724 may have a double association with the BL Lac 5BZBJ0941+2722 and the FSRQ MG2 J094148+2728, which was an association in 3FGL.
9. 4FGL J1300.4+1416 (3FGL J1300.2+1416) is associated with OW 197 (PKS 1257+145,  $z = 1.1085$ ), as it was in 3LAC. At about 5' distance from OW 197, a blazar candidate NVSS J130041+141728 lies in both the 3FGL and 4FGL 95% confidence ellipses, despite a reduction in size of the ellipse by a factor of 4. The 4FGL source position is about midway between OW 197 and NVSS J130041+141728.
10. 4FGL J1625.7+4134 may have a double association, with 4C +41.32 and B3 1624+414.

## 6. Summary

The 4LAC, derived from the 4FGL catalog, based on 8 yr of *Fermi*-LAT data, includes 1353 (85%) more AGNs than the 3LAC. At high Galactic latitudes, AGNs represent at least 79% of the 4FGL sources. Unassociated sources lying in this sky region share common spectral features with BCUs (see Figure 22 of the 4FGL paper), suggesting that most of them are AGNs as well. BL Lacs and FSRQs represent 38% and 24% of the blazar population, respectively. The increase of the fraction of BCUs in the sample from 29% in 3LAC to 38% in 4LAC emphasizes the value of the spectroscopic endeavor carried out by several groups. From their photon index and  $\nu_{s,peak}$  distributions, BCUs probably contain similar fractions of (still unclassified) FSRQs and BL Lacs as observed in the classified population.

Fits of the synchrotron-peak positions have been performed manually for all 4LAC sources, leading to an SED-based classification for 75% of the 4LAC blazars. The number of nonblazar AGNs has almost doubled relative to 3LAC, from 32 to 64, including 22 new radio galaxies. The overall properties of the 4LAC AGNs are similar to those found in 3LAC. A fairly clear separation in spectral hardness between BL Lacs and FSRQs is observed, with a transition around  $\Gamma = 2.25$ .

Five HSP FSRQs, which do not fit with the “blazar sequence” picture, are present in 4LAC. They all show spectra harder than average for the FSRQ class. Significant spectral curvature is observed for essentially all the brightest ( $TS > 3000$ ) blazars. The redshift distributions of newly detected blazars resemble those found for 3LAC. Five new FSRQs have redshifts greater than the highest 3LAC redshift ( $z = 3.1$ ), reaching  $z = 4.31$ . The correlation between photon index and gamma-ray luminosity is strong overall for blazars, but much weaker if the different classes are taken separately. Analysis of 1 yr and 2 month light curves shows that 79% of the FSRQs and 35% of the BL Lacs are variable, along with seven radio galaxies and 16 other AGNs. The highest-energy photons show compatibility with the EBL  $\gamma$ - $\gamma$  attenuation predicted by some recent models. About 30% of the new blazars are present in BZCAT. Although the 4LAC blazars are predominantly associated with higher-than-average radio, optical, and X-ray fluxes in BZCAT, they remain non-negligible even at the faint ends of these flux distributions, in particular for BL Lacs. All 78 known VHE blazars are detected by the LAT, with 56 of them being variable in the GeV range.

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## Appendix

### Chronological Convention for Source Association Naming

In 3LAC and 4LAC, an approximate chronological scheme is adopted for the proper names of the radio/IR/optical/X-ray counterparts. For greater convenience and clarity, a time-ordered list of the source catalogs used here is given in Table 8. The proper names follow approximately the initial (discovery) names from radio, IR, optical, and X-ray surveys, catalogs and observations. These names have been checked to be recognized by the strict “name resolver” in the NASA-IPAC Extragalactic

Database (and therefore by many other web databases like HEASARC derived from it).

Radio galaxies, quasars, blazars, and other AGNs were first discovered as optical non-starlike nebulae objects (i.e., galaxies) listed in the C. Messier catalog in year 1791, and the NGC (J.L.E. Dreyer) and IC catalogs published between the years 1781 and 1905. Examples of sources in 4LAC are the radio galaxies M87, NGC 315, NGC 1275 (also known as Per A or 3C 84), and the starburst galaxies M82, NGC 253, and NGC 1068. Other AGNs were initially considered as optical variable stars (Argelander, e.g., BL Lac, W Com, AP Lib, and BW Tau, known as 3C 120). Some blazars and AGNs were discovered as unusual optically blue starlike objects (Ton, PHL, Mkn catalogs, about 1957–1974; for example, Ton 599, Mkn 180, Mkn 421, Mkn 501, PHL 1389) or in optical galaxy catalogs (CGCG, MCG, CGPG, ARP, UGC, Ark, Zw/I-V, Tol, during the period 1961–1976; for example, CGCG 050-083, UGC 773, I Zw 187, V Zw 326). Subsequent optically selected objects and quasar catalogs provide some names of 4LAC associations (for example, PG, PB, US, SBS, PGC, LEDA, HS, SDSS).

In parallel, the largest fraction of radio galaxies and AGNs were discovered during the early era of radio astronomy, with objects like Vir A, Cen A, Cen B, Per A appearing already in the first half of the 1950s, and the well-known point radio source catalogs 3C, CTA, PKS, 4C, O[+letter], VRO, NRAO, AO, DA, B2, GC, and S1/S2/S3 all published between about 1959 and 1974. The PKS (Parkes Radio Catalog, Australia) is the source name preferred for southern celestial radio AGNs, while northern radio AGNs were likely first reported in Cambridge catalogs (especially 3C, 4C) and the Ohio State University Radio Survey Catalog (Ohio Big Ear radio-antenna, O(x) catalog prefix), or in the CTA, NRAO, DA, B2, TXS, S1-5, or MG1-4 catalogs. Examples in the 4LAC are Cen A (already known as NGC 5128, but better known with its original radio name), Per A, Vir A (M87). Other radio catalogs published between about 1974 and the mid-1980s include TXS, 5C, S4/S5, MRC, and B3, while from the end of the 1980s until the end of 1990s, we have MG1/MG2/MG4, 87GB, 6C/7C, JVAS, PMN, EF, CJ2, FIRST, Cul, GB6, FBQS, WN, NVSS, CLASS, IERS, SUMSS, and CRATES. Some catalogs at IR or UV frequencies are also considered here (KUV, *EUVE*, 2MASSi, 2MASS). Further blazars and other AGNs, fainter in the radio band, were discovered directly thanks to the observations made by the first X-ray satellites (2A, 4U, XRS, EXO, H/1H, MS, 1E, 1ES, 2E, RX catalogs published from about 1978 to the mid-1990s). Later came the *ROSAT* survey catalogs from reanalysis and cross-matches, such as RGB, RBS, RHS, 1RXS, XSS.

Table 8 reports catalog and survey prefixes in an approximate chronological order that was adopted for the association names of the 4LAC catalog. The order is only approximate, due to the lack of precise information for each catalog as well as the need to follow, in some cases, the criterion of the most-used name in the literature and published papers for a source (even if this latter choice is rather arbitrary and subject to opinion).

The most frequent source association names in 4LAC come from the 3C, 4C, PKS, O[+letter], B2, S2/S3/S5, TXS, MG1/MG2, PMN, GB6, SDSS, 1ES, RX, RBS, 1RXS, NVSS, and 2MASS catalogs. Some 4LAC counterpart proper names may be somewhat inadequate because of the radio extension of the

**Table 8**  
Historical Catalogs Reference for Naming of 4LAC Associations

| Waveband    | Publ. Year(s)/Range  | Prefix          | Catalog Name                                                                      |
|-------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Optical     | 1781                 | M               | Charles Messier catalog of nebulae and non-starlike objects from M1 to M110.      |
| Optical     | 1844–1915            | xy+const.       | Argelander convention for first-discovered variable stars in each constellations. |
| Optical     | 1848                 | GC              | General Catalog                                                                   |
| Optical     | 1888                 | NGC             | New General Catalog                                                               |
| Optical     | 1896, 1905           | IC              | IC Index Catalogs (IC I and IC II, expansions of the NGC Catalog).                |
| Radio       | 1947–1949            | const.+letter   | Constellation + Arabic letter (first radio sources ever discovered).              |
| Optical     | 1952, 1963           | PLX             | Yale General Catalog of Trigonometric Stellar Parallaxes                          |
| Radio       | 1955                 | 2C              | Second Cambridge Radio Catalog at 178 MHz                                         |
| Optical     | 1957–1959            | Ton             | Tonantzintla (Mexico) Catalog of Blue Stars                                       |
| Radio       | 1959–1962            | 3C              | Third Cambridge Radio Catalog at 178 MHz (3C, 3CR)                                |
| Radio       | 1960                 | CTA             | Caltech Radio Survey List A                                                       |
| Optical     | 1961–1968            | CGCG            | Catalog of Galaxies and of Clusters of Galaxies                                   |
| Optical     | 1962                 | PHL             | Palomar-Haro-Luyten Blue Stellar Objects list                                     |
| Optical     | 1962–1974            | MCG             | Morphological Catalog of Galaxies                                                 |
| Radio       | 1964–1967            | Kes             | Kesteven catalog of galactic radio sources                                        |
| Radio       | 1964–1968, 1971–1975 | PKS             | Parkes catalog of radio sources                                                   |
| Radio       | 1965–1969            | 4C              | Fourth Cambridge Radio Catalog                                                    |
| Radio       | 1965–1971            | O(x) (Ohio (x)) | Big Ear Ohio State University Radio Survey Catalog (O + R.A.hour letter)          |
| Radio       | 1965–1971            | VRO             | Vermillion Radio Observatory survey catalog                                       |
| Radio       | 1966                 | NRAO            | National Radio Astron. Obs. Positions and Flux Densities of Radio Sources         |
| Optical     | 1966                 | ARP             | Arp Peculiar Galaxies catalog                                                     |
| Radio       | 1967–1970            | AO              | Arecibo Occultation Radio Sources                                                 |
| Optical     | 1967–1974            | Mkn (Mrk)       | Markaryan blue object list (Galaxies with an ultraviolet continuum)               |
| Radio       | 1968                 | DA              | Dominion Radio Observatory Survey, List A                                         |
| Radio       | 1970–1974            | B2              | Second Bologna Catalog of radio sources                                           |
| Radio       | 1971–1972            | GC              | Green Bank Radio Survey List C                                                    |
| Radio       | 1971–1972            | S1/S2/S3        | First/Second/Third “Strong” (radio) Source survey                                 |
| Radio       | 1971–1972            | GB (GB1)        | Green Bank Radio Survey                                                           |
| Radio       | 1971–1978            | GB2             | Green Bank Radio Survey 2                                                         |
| Optical     | 1971                 | CGPG            | Catalog of Selected Compact Galaxies and of Post-Eruptive Galaxies                |
| Optical     | 1973                 | UGC             | Uppsala General Catalog of Galaxies                                               |
| Radio       | 1974–1983            | TXS             | Texas Survey of Radio Sources                                                     |
| Optical     | 1974                 | UGCA            | Uppsala General Catalog Appendix                                                  |
| Radio       | 1975                 | 5C              | Fifth Cambridge Survey of Radio Sources                                           |
| Optical     | 1975                 | Ark             | Arakelian Emission Line Objects                                                   |
| Optical     | 1975                 | I-V Zw          | First/Second/Third/Fourth/Fifth Zwicky list of compact galaxies                   |
| Optical     | 1976                 | Tol             | Tololo List of Emission Line Galaxies                                             |
| Optical     | 1976, 1983, 1986     | PG              | Palomar-Green Bright Quasar Catalog                                               |
| Optical     | 1977–1984            | PB              | Palomar-Berger Faint Blue Stars Catalog                                           |
| Radio       | 1978                 | S4              | Fourth “Strong” (radio) Source survey                                             |
| X-ray       | 1978                 | 2A              | Second ARIEL V survey catalog                                                     |
| X-ray       | 1978                 | 4U              | Fourth Uhuru Catalog of X-ray Sources                                             |
| Radio       | 1978–1995            | GRA (GR)        | Grakovo Radio Decametric Survey                                                   |
| X-ray       | 1979                 | XRS             | X-Ray Source catalog from rockets, balloons, satellites of 1964–1977              |
| Ultraviolet | 1980–1984            | KUV             | KisoUltraviolet Excess Objects catalogs                                           |
| Optical     | 1980–1993            | USNO (IDS)      | U.S. Naval Observatory parallaxes catalog                                         |
| Radio       | 1981                 | S5              | Fifth “Strong” (radio) Source survey                                              |
| X-ray       | 1981                 | 3A              | Third ARIEL V survey catalog                                                      |
| Gamma-ray   | 1981                 | 2CG             | Second COS-B catalog of high-energy gamma-ray sources                             |
| Optical     | 1981–1984            | US              | Usher Faint Blue Stars                                                            |
| Radio       | 1981, 1991           | MRC             | Molonglo Reference Catalog of Radio Sources                                       |
| Radio       | 1981, 1994           | 1 Jy            | Extragalactic radio sources with flux densities >1 Jy at 5 GHz catalog            |
| Optical     | 1983–2000            | SBS             | Second Byurakan Survey of Emission Line Objects                                   |
| X-ray       | 1983–1986            | EXO             | EXOSAT X-Ray Source Catalog                                                       |
| X-ray       | 1984                 | H (1H)          | The HEAO A-1 X-Ray Source Catalog                                                 |
| X-ray       | 1984                 | EXO             | EXOSAT XRay Source Catalog                                                        |
| Radio       | 1985                 | B3              | Third Bologna Catalog of radio sources                                            |
| Radio       | 1985–1993            | 6C              | Sixth Cambridge Radio Catalog                                                     |
| Radio       | 1986                 | MG1             | First MIT-Green Bank 5 GHz Survey                                                 |
| Optical     | 1987                 | AM              | Arp and Madore Southern Peculiar Galaxies and Associations catalog                |
| Infrared    | 1988                 | IRAS            | Infrared Astronomy Satellite Point Source Catalog                                 |
| Infrared    | 1990                 | IRAS F          | Infrared Astronomy Satellite Faint Source Catalog                                 |
| Optical     | 1989                 | PGC             | Principal Galaxy Catalog                                                          |

**Table 8**  
(Continued)

| Waveband    | Publ. Year(s)/Range   | Prefix      | Catalog Name                                                               |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Optical     | 1989                  | LEDA        | Lyon-Meudon Extragalactic Database catalog                                 |
| Optical     | 1989                  | [HB89]      | Hewitt and Burbidge QSO compilation (mute prefix)                          |
| Optical     | 1989–1996             | CTS         | Calan-Tololo Survey of galaxies and quasars                                |
| Radio       | 1990                  | MG2         | Second MIT-Green Bank 5 GHz Survey                                         |
| Radio       | 1990                  | MG3         | Third MIT-Green Bank 5 GHz Survey                                          |
| Optical     | 1990                  | GSC         | Hubble Guide Star Catalog                                                  |
| Radio       | 1990–1998             | 7C          | Seventh Cambridge Survey of Radio Sources                                  |
| X-ray       | 1990                  | 1E          | The Einstein Observatory ( <i>HEAO 2</i> ) catalog of IPC X-ray sources.   |
| Radio       | 1991                  | MG4         | Fourth MIT-Green Bank 5 GHz Survey                                         |
| Radio       | 1991                  | 87 GB       | The 1987 Green Bank Radio Survey                                           |
| Optical     | 1991–2007             | HS (HE)     | Hamburg/ESO QSO Survey                                                     |
| X-ray       | 1991                  | MS          | Einstein ( <i>HEAO-2</i> ) Medium Sensitivity Survey                       |
| X-ray       | 1991                  | 1ES         | 1st Einstein ( <i>HEAO-2</i> ) Slew Survey Source Catalog                  |
| Radio       | 1992                  | ZS          | Zelenchuk Survey                                                           |
| Gamma-ray   | 1992–2000             | GRO         | Compton Gamma Ray Observatory source                                       |
| Radio       | 1992–2002             | JVAS        | Jodrell Bank-VLA Astrometric Survey                                        |
| Optical     | 1993                  | HIP         | Hipparcos Catalog                                                          |
| Radio       | 1994                  | PMN         | Parkes-MIT-NRAO Radio Survey catalog                                       |
| Radio       | 1994                  | EF          | Effelsberg Radio Sources catalog                                           |
| Radio       | 1994                  | CJ2         | Second Caltech-Jodrell Bank VLBI Survey catalog                            |
| Ultraviolet | 1994                  | <i>EUVE</i> | Extreme UltraViolet Explorer Bright Source List                            |
| X-ray       | 1994                  | RX          | First <i>ROSAT</i> Source Catalog of pointed observations with the PSPC    |
| X-ray       | 1994                  | 2E          | Second Einstein ( <i>HEAO-2</i> ) Observatory catalog of IPC X-ray sources |
| Radio       | 1995–1997             | FIRST       | Faint Images of the Radio Sky at Twenty Centimeters                        |
| Radio       | 1995                  | Cul         | Culgoora Radio Sources catalog                                             |
| X-ray       | 1995                  | 1WGA        | First White Giommi Angelini <i>ROSAT</i> X-Ray sources list                |
| Radio       | 1996                  | GB6         | Green Bank 6 cm Radio Survey                                               |
| Radio       | 1996                  | CJF         | Caltech-Jodrell bank Flat spectrum survey                                  |
| Ultraviolet | 1996                  | 2EUVE       | 2nd Extreme Ultraviolet Explorer source catalog                            |
| Radio       | 1996–2001             | FBQS        | FIRST Bright QSO Survey                                                    |
| Radio       | 1997, 2008            | WN          | WENSS North radio survey                                                   |
| X-ray       | 1997                  | RGB         | <i>ROSAT</i> -Green Bank source catalog                                    |
| X-ray       | 1997                  | EXSS        | Einstein ( <i>HEAO-2</i> ) Extended X-Ray Sources                          |
| Radio       | 1998                  | NVSS        | NRAO VLA Sky Survey                                                        |
| Radio       | 1998–2002             | CLASS       | Cosmic Lens All-Sky Survey catalog                                         |
| Radio       | 1998–2010             | IERS        | International Earth Rotation Service                                       |
| Radio       | 1998–2010             | ICRF        | International Celestial Reference Frame                                    |
| Infrared    | 1998–2000             | 2MASSi      | 2 Micron All Sky Survey point sources Incremental release                  |
| X-ray       | 1998–2000             | RBS         | <i>ROSAT</i> Bright Survey catalog                                         |
| X-ray       | 1998–2000             | RHS         | <i>ROSAT</i> Hard X-ray Spectra source catalog                             |
| Gamma-ray   | 1999                  | 3EG         | Third EGRET Catalog of High-Energy Gamma-Ray Sources                       |
| Optical     | 1999                  | MRSS        | Muenster Red Sky Survey                                                    |
| Optical     | 1999–2008             | SDSS        | Sloan Digital Sky Survey Catalogs                                          |
| X-ray       | 1999–2000, 2006, 2009 | 1RXS        | <i>ROSAT</i> All-Sky Survey Bright Source Catalog                          |
| Radio       | 2000                  | VSOP        | VLBI Space Observatory Programme                                           |
| X-ray       | 2001, 2005            | 1AXG        | 1st ASCA X-ray survey from GIS experiment                                  |
| Radio       | 2003, 2008            | SUMSS       | Sydney University Molonglo Sky Survey catalog                              |
| Radio       | 2003–2009             | WMAP        | WMAP Foreground Source Catalogs                                            |
| Infrared    | 2003–2006             | 2MASS       | 2 Micron All Sky Survey Point objects Final Release                        |
| X-ray       | 2004                  | XSS         | <i>RXTE</i> XTE Slew Survey catalog                                        |
| X-ray       | 2004–2008             | IGR         | <i>INTEGRAL</i> Gamma Ray source                                           |
| Ultraviolet | 2005–2015             | GALEXASC    | GALaxy Evolution eXplorer All-Sky Survey Source Catalog                    |
| X-ray       | 2005                  | SHBL        | Sedentary High energy peaked BL Lacs                                       |
| X-ray       | 2005–2015             | SWIFT       | Swift source list                                                          |
| Gamma-ray   | 2006–...              | HESS        | High Energy Stereoscopic System observatory source list                    |
| Radio       | 2007                  | CRATES      | Combined Radio All-Sky Targeted Eight GHz Survey                           |
| Radio       | 2007                  | VIPS        | VLBA Imaging and Polarimetry Survey                                        |
| Radio       | 2007                  | VERA        | VLBI Exploration of Radio Astrometry                                       |
| Radio       | 2007–2008             | VLSS        | VLA Low-frequency Sky Survey                                               |
| X-ray       | 2007                  | SAXWFC      | Beppo-SAX X-Ray Satellite Wide Field Camera catalog                        |
| X-ray       | 2007–2010             | 1XMM        | 1st <i>XMM-Newton</i> Serendipitous Source Catalog                         |
| X-ray       | 2007–2010             | 2XMM        | 2nd <i>XMM-Newton</i> Serendipitous Source Catalog                         |
| Radio       | 2008                  | CGRaBS      | Candidate Gamma-Ray Blazar Survey                                          |

**Table 8**  
(Continued)

| Waveband       | Publ. Year(s)/Range | Prefix           | Catalog Name                                                     |
|----------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Gamma-ray      | 2008                | EGR              | Revised catalog of gamma-ray sources detected by EGRET           |
| Radio          | 2008–2010           | AT20G            | Australia Telescope 20 GHz Survey catalog                        |
| Gamma-ray      | 2008–...            | VER              | VERITAS gamma-ray source list                                    |
| Gamma-ray      | 2009                | 1AGL             | First AGILE GRID Catalog of High Confidence Gamma-Ray Sources    |
| Multifrequency | 2009–2018           | BZ(x) (2-5BZ(x)) | Roma Blazar catalog (the last published has prefix 5BZ+(letter)) |
| Infrared       | 2010                | AKARI-IRC-V1     | AKARI/IRC Point Source Catalog Version 1                         |
| X-ray          | 2010                | 2PBC             | Second Palermo <i>Swift</i> -BAT hard X-ray catalog              |
| Infrared       | 2011                | WISE             | <i>Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer</i> catalog               |
| X-ray          | 2012                | CXO              | Chandra Source Catalog Release 1.1                               |
| Optical        | 2012, 2014          | LQAC             | Large Quasar Astrometric Catalog                                 |
| Infrared       | 2013                | SSTSL2           | Spitzer Space Telescope Source List—version 4.2                  |
| X-ray          | 2013                | 2MAXI            | Monitor of All-sky X-ray Image 37 month catalog                  |
| Millimeter     | 2013                | PLCKERC0(nn)     | Planck Early Release Compact Source Catalog at (nn)GHz           |
| Radio          | 2014                | WB (WIBRaLS)     | WISE Blazar-like Radio-loud Sources                              |
| Ultraviolet    | 2016                | UVQS             | UV-bright Quasar Survey                                          |
| Radio          | 2016                | NVGRC            | NVSS Giant Radio Sources Catalog                                 |
| Gamma-ray      | 2016                | MGRO             | Milagro Gamma-Ray Observatory source list                        |
| Optical        | 2016– ...           | Gaia DR(n)       | <i>Gaia</i> Data Release (n) source                              |
| Gamma-ray      | 2017                | 2HWC             | HAWC Observatory first catalog                                   |

AGN/radio galaxy. In some cases, the gamma-ray position may relate to the radio emission of the jet or lobe of an AGN, while the name refers to the radio core, which could be offset by a few arcseconds. This is manifest in the two different gamma-ray point-source components of Cen A (designed as Cen A core and Cen A lobe in the 4FGL). Another example is 4FGL J1758.7–1621 associated with AT20G J175841–161703 (also known as NVSS J175841–161705). This steep-spectrum AT20G radio source has a brighter neighbor (23.9 Jy at 160 MHz), PMN J1758–1616 (not included in the 3C catalog, because it lies 4° off the Galactic plane) at about 10'' offset. The radio structure map reveals that PMN J1758–1616 is an FR-II radio galaxy, while AT20G J175841–161703 corresponds to its radio lobe.

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