



3FHL: The Third Catalog of Hard *Fermi*-LAT Sources

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Abstract

We present a catalog of sources detected above 10 GeV by the *Fermi* Large Area Telescope (LAT) in the first 7 years of data using the Pass 8 event-level analysis. This is the Third Catalog of Hard *Fermi*-LAT Sources (3FHL), containing 1556 objects characterized in the 10 GeV–2 TeV energy range. The sensitivity and angular resolution are improved by factors of 3 and 2 relative to the previous LAT catalog at the same energies (1FHL). The vast majority of detected sources (79%) are associated with extragalactic counterparts at other wavelengths, including 16 sources located at very high redshift ($z > 2$). Of the sources, 8% have Galactic counterparts and 13% are unassociated (or associated with a source of unknown nature). The high-latitude sky and the Galactic plane are observed with a flux sensitivity of 4.4 to 9.5×10^{-11} ph cm⁻² s⁻¹, respectively (this is approximately 0.5% and 1% of the Crab Nebula flux above 10 GeV). The catalog includes 214 new γ -ray sources. The substantial increase in the number of photons (more than 4 times relative to 1FHL and 10 times to 2FHL) also allows us to measure significant spectral curvature for 32 sources and find flux variability for 163 of them. Furthermore, we estimate that for the same flux limit of 10^{-12} erg cm⁻² s⁻¹, the energy range above 10 GeV has twice as many sources as the range above 50 GeV, highlighting the importance, for future Cherenkov telescopes, of lowering the energy threshold as much as possible.

Key words: catalogs – gamma rays: general

Supporting material: FITS file

1. Introduction

The Large Area Telescope (LAT, Atwood et al. 2009) on board the *Fermi* Gamma-ray Space Telescope has revolutionized our understanding of the high-energy sky. The latest release of the broadband all-sky LAT catalog (i.e., the Third Catalog of *Fermi*-LAT Sources, or 3FGL, Acero et al. 2015) characterizes 3033 objects in the energy range 0.1–300 GeV from the first 4 years of LAT science data. Since the sensitivity of the instrument peaks at about 1 GeV, the 3FGL necessarily favors sources that are brightest in the GeV energy range.

The *Fermi*-LAT collaboration has also released two hard-source catalogs that were produced using analyses optimized for energies greater than tens of GeV. The First Catalog of Hard *Fermi*-LAT Sources (1FHL, Ackermann et al. 2013) describes 514 sources detected above 10 GeV from the first 3 years of LAT data. Additionally, the Second Catalog of Hard *Fermi*-LAT Sources (2FHL, Ackermann et al. 2016b) reports the properties of 360 sources detected above 50 GeV from the first 80 months of data. The 2FHL was the first LAT catalog to take advantage of the latest event-level analysis (Pass 8), which provides significant improvements in event reconstruction and classification. Pass 8 increases the sensitivity, improves the angular resolution, and also extends the useful energy range of

the instrument up to 2 TeV (Atwood et al. 2013). The 2FHL was intended to close the energy gap between previous *Fermi*-LAT catalogs and the range of the current generation of Imaging Atmospheric Cherenkov Telescopes (IACTs).

In addition to serving as references for works on individual sources (e.g., Aleksić et al. 2014), these LAT hard-source catalogs have been instrumental in providing promising candidates for detection by IACTs (e.g., Abeysekera 2015), enabling the search for plausible γ -ray counterparts of IceCube high-energy neutrinos (e.g., Aartsen et al. 2016; Padovani et al. 2016), triggering studies on unidentified sources (Domainko 2014), and enabling new studies on the extragalactic background light (Domínguez & Ajello 2015), which yielded constraints on the extragalactic γ -ray background (Broderick et al. 2014; Ackermann et al. 2016a), and on the proton component of ultra-high-energy cosmic rays (Berezinsky et al. 2016).

The Third Catalog of Hard *Fermi*-LAT Sources (3FHL) is the latest addition to the *Fermi*-LAT catalogs and reports on sources detected at energies above 10 GeV. The 3FHL is constructed from the first 7 years of data and takes full advantage of the improvements provided by Pass 8 using the point-spread function (PSF)-type event classification,⁶⁴ which improves the sensitivity.

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⁶⁴ A measure of the quality of the direction reconstruction is used to assign events to four quartiles.

In this work, we do not look for new extended sources but explicitly model sources as spatially extended sources previously resolved by the LAT along with those recently found by Ackermann et al. (2017). Given that the Cherenkov Telescope Array (CTA) is expected to have an energy threshold below 50 GeV (Acharya et al. 2013), the 3FHL catalog offers an excellent opportunity to relate observations from space and those that will be possible in the near future from the ground.

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the methodology used to detect sources in the LAT data and to associate these sources with known astrophysical objects at other energies. Then, Section 3 gives details on the structure of the 3FHL catalog and describes its main properties in the Galactic and extragalactic sky, and gives details on the newly discovered γ -ray sources. In Section 3, we also discuss flux variability. Finally, we conclude in Section 4.

2. Analysis

In this section, we present our methodology for extracting the high-level information provided in the catalog from the γ -ray event-level *Fermi*-LAT data.

2.1. Data Selection and Software

The current version of the *Fermi*-LAT data is Pass 8 (Atwood et al. 2013). For this study we have selected Source class events in the energy range from 10 GeV to 2 TeV. Adopting a 10 GeV threshold, as was done in the 1FHL catalog (Ackermann et al. 2013), provides the benefits of a narrow PSF, with per-photon angular resolution from $0^\circ.15$ at 10 GeV to less than $0^\circ.1$ above 35 GeV (68% containment radius averaged over all event types),⁶⁵ ensuring minimal confusion and low background at the PSF scale. In that range the sensitivity of the LAT observations is limited by statistics only. We used the PSF event types appropriate for each event, to obtain the best source localizations.

We analyzed seven years of data, from 2008 August 4 to 2015 August 2 (*Fermi* mission elapsed time 239,557,417 to 460,250,000 s). In addition to the $\sim 16\%$ of real time lost when passing through the South Atlantic Anomaly and other interruptions, we have excised small intervals around bright GRBs, solar flares, and bad data, resulting in 182,870,410 s (5.8 years) of good time intervals. To limit contamination from the γ -ray-bright Earth limb, we enforced a selection on zenith angle ($<105^\circ$) and applied a very weak constraint on rocking angle ($<90^\circ$). The scanning mode results in maximum exposure near the north celestial pole (4.3×10^7 m² s at 10 GeV) and minimum exposure on the celestial equator (2.6×10^7 m² s).

The analyzed data contain 699,582 photons at energies above 10 GeV. This is about a factor of 10 more photons than are above 50 GeV in the 2FHL (60,978 photons) and more than 4 times the number in the 1FHL above 10 GeV (162,812 photons). Figure 1 shows the all-sky counts map, which has been smoothed.

We used the P8R2_Source_V6 instrument response functions. We used the same models of Galactic diffuse emission and extragalactic isotropic emission as used in the 3FGL analysis, adapted to Pass 8 data and extrapolated (linearly in the logarithm) up to 2 TeV. They are available from the Fermi Science Support Center (FSSC) as `gll_iem_v06.fits`

(Galactic) and `iso_P8R2_SOURCE_V6_v06.txt` (isotropic). We also used the same model as in 3FGL for the contributions from the γ -ray emissions of the Sun and Moon near the ecliptic plane (although their contribution above 10 GeV is very minor).

We undertook the LAT analysis using the standard *pyLikelihood* framework (Python analog of *glike*) in the LAT Science Tools⁶⁶ (version v11r4). Throughout the text we use the Test Statistic $TS = 2 \Delta \log \mathcal{L}$ (Mattox et al. 1996), comparing the likelihood function \mathcal{L} optimized with and without a given source, for quantifying how significantly a source emerges from the background.

2.2. Source Detection

At the high energies considered here the width of the LAT PSF does not depend strongly on energy and the point-source detection is limited by source counts more than background, so we used image-based source detection techniques on counts maps integrated over all energies and event types. The algorithm we used (*mr_filter*) is based on a wavelet analysis in the Poisson regime (Starck & Pierre 1998). We set the threshold to 2σ in the False Discovery Rate mode. It returns a map of significant features on which we ran the peak-finding algorithm SExtractor (Bertin & Arnouts 1996) to generate a list of source candidates (hereafter seeds). We also used another wavelet algorithm (*PGWave*, Damiani et al. 1997; Ciprini et al. 2007), which differs in the detailed implementation and returns directly a list of seeds (the threshold was set to 3σ). Simulations indicated that the latter was somewhat more sensitive on a flat background but did not work as well in the Galactic plane. We merged the two seed lists, eliminating duplicates within $0^\circ.2$.

Since those methods work in Cartesian coordinates, we paved the sky with 26 projections in Galactic coordinates: 6 CAR (plate carrée) projections along the Galactic plane covering Galactic latitudes (b) from $b = -10^\circ$ to $+10^\circ$, 6 AIT (Hammer–Aitoff) projections on each side of the plane covering $b = 10^\circ$ to 45° , and 4 CAR projections covering $b = 45^\circ$ to 90° in four quadrants around each pole. Each map is 5° larger on each side than the area from which the seeds are extracted, to avoid border effects. The pixel size was set to $0^\circ.05$, comparable to the FWHM of the PSF at high energy (the 68% containment radius is greater than $0^\circ.09$ up to 300 GeV).

Next, we added seeds in the Galactic plane from the search for extended Galactic sources above 10 GeV (Ackermann et al. 2017), as well as seeds derived in preparatory work for the next general LAT source catalog over all energies. The full list comprised 3730 seeds. Compared to the single *mr_filter* method, adding seeds from those parallel studies and *PGWave* resulted in nearly 1000 more seeds, but only 24 ($<2\%$) more sources in the final list of significant sources (Section 2.4).

The source density at $|b| > 10^\circ$ is 0.036 sources per square degree (after TS selection in Section 2.4). Since the 68% PSF containment radius is better than $0^\circ.15$, confusion is rather limited. A standard plot showing the distribution of distance between sources (such as Figure 13 of Acero et al. 2015) indicates that this catalog has missed about 20 ($<2\%$) high-latitude sources within $0^\circ.4$ of another one. In the Galactic plane the confusion is worse because many sources are extended.

⁶⁵ http://www.slac.stanford.edu/exp/glast/groups/canda/lat_Performance.htm

⁶⁶ See <http://fermi.gsfc.nasa.gov/ssc/data/analysis/documentation/Cicerone/>

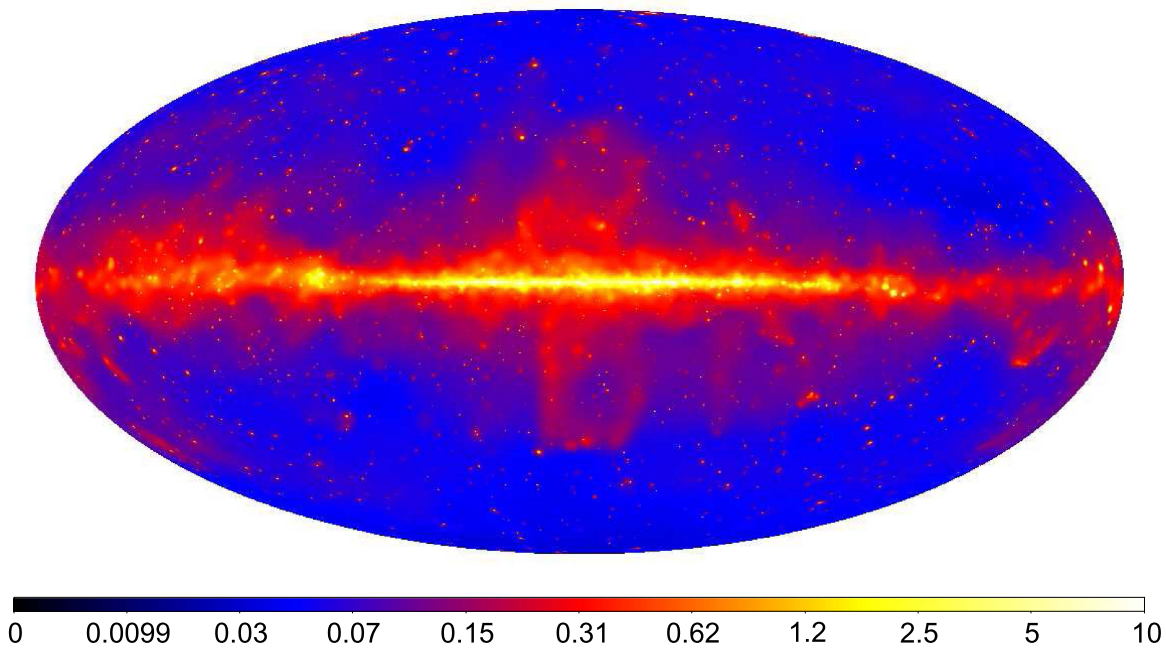


Figure 1. Adaptively smoothed *Fermi*-LAT counts map in the 10 GeV–2 TeV band represented in Galactic coordinates and Hammer–Aitoff projection. The image has been smoothed with a Gaussian kernel whose size was varied to achieve a minimum signal-to-noise ratio under the kernel of 2.3. The color scale is logarithmic and the units are counts per $(0.1 \text{ deg})^2$ pixel.

2.3. Localization

The position of each source was determined by maximizing the likelihood starting from the seed position, using *gtfindsrc*. We used *gtfindsrc* rather than *pointlike* (used in 3FGL) in order to benefit from the full power of PSF event types introduced in Pass 8. The *gtfindsrc* tool works in unbinned mode, automatically selecting the appropriate PSF for each event as a function of its event type and off-axis angle (the PSF broadens at large off-axis angles). The *gtfindsrc* run was integrated into the main iterative procedure (Section 2.4), starting with the brightest sources. This ensures that the surrounding sources were correctly represented. The main drawback is that *gtfindsrc* provides only a symmetric (circular) error radius, assuming a Gaussian distribution, not the full TS map and an ellipse as *pointlike* does. There is no reason to believe that this is a serious limitation. For example, in 3FGL the average ratio between the two axes of the error ellipses was 1.20, so most ellipses were close to circular. At higher energies (1FHL) this ratio was even smaller, 1.12.

The systematic uncertainties associated with localization were not calibrated on 3FHL itself, but on the larger (and more precise) preliminary source list derived from an analysis over all energies greater than 100 MeV. The absolute precision at the 95% confidence level was found to be $0^\circ 0075$ (it was $0^\circ 005$ in 3FGL, but the statistical precision on localization was not good enough to constrain the absolute precision well). The systematic factor was found to be 1.05, as in 3FGL. We checked that the 3FHL localizations were consistent with the same values. Consequently, we multiplied all error estimates by 1.05 and added $0^\circ 0075$ in quadrature.

2.4. Significance and Spectral Characterization

The framework for this stage of the analysis was inherited from the 3FGL catalog analysis pipeline (Acero et al. 2015). It splits the sky into regions of interest (RoIs), each with typically

half a dozen sources whose parameters are simultaneously optimized. The global best fit is reached iteratively, by including sources in the outer parts of the RoI from the neighboring RoIs at the previous step. Above 10 GeV the PSF is narrow, so the cross-talk is small and the iteration converges rapidly. The diffuse emission model had exactly one free normalization parameter per RoI (see the Appendix for details). We used unbinned likelihood with PSF event types over the full energy range, neglecting energy dispersion. Extended sources (Section 2.5) were treated just as point sources, except for their spatial templates. Whenever possible, we applied the new RadialDisk and RadialGaussian analytic spatial templates for the likelihood calculation. They are not pixelized and hence are more precise than the map-based templates used in 3FGL.

Sources were modeled by default with a power-law (PL) spectrum (two free parameters, a normalization and a spectral photon index). At the end of the iteration, we kept only sources with $\text{TS} > 25$ with the PL model, corresponding to a significance of just over 4σ evaluated from the χ^2 distribution with 4 degrees of freedom (position and spectral parameters, Mattox et al. 1996). We also enforced a minimum number of model-predicted events $N_{\text{pred}} \geq 4$ (only two sources were rejected because of this limit, and only two have $N_{\text{pred}} < 5$). We ended up with 1556 sources with $\text{TS} > 25$, including 48 extended sources.

The alternative curved LogParabola (LP) spectral shape

$$\frac{dN}{dE} = K \left(\frac{E}{E_0} \right)^{-\alpha - \beta \log(E/E_0)} \quad (1)$$

was systematically tested, and adopted when $\text{Signif_Curve} = \sqrt{2 \ln(\mathcal{L}(\text{LP})/\mathcal{L}(\text{PL}))} > 3$, corresponding to $3\text{-}\sigma$ evidence in favor of the curved model (the threshold was 4σ in 3FGL). Among 1556 sources, only 6 were found to be significantly curved at the 4σ level. Lowering the threshold to 3σ added 26 curved sources, whereas an average

of 4.2 would be expected by chance. So most of the additional spectral curvatures between 3σ and 4σ are real. We iterated after changing a spectral shape or removing a source. Only 2% of the 3FHL sources were considered significantly curved. This does not mean that sources are less curved than they are over the full *Fermi*-LAT range (100 MeV–300 GeV), but only that it is more difficult to measure curvature over a restricted energy range and with limited statistics (>10 GeV). One of those 32 has upward curvature. This source is associated with the pulsar PSR J1418–6058, and that curvature marks the transition between the pulsar emission at lower γ -ray energies seen by *Fermi*-LAT (Abdo et al. 2013) and the very high-energy γ -rays from the pulsar wind nebula detected by H.E.S.S. (Aharonian et al. 2006a).

Photon and energy fluxes in the 10 GeV–1 TeV band were obtained from the best spectral model. We chose to report fluxes up to 1 TeV because integrating the energy flux up to 2 TeV has larger uncertainty when the photon index is harder than 2. Uncertainties were obtained by linear error propagation from the original parameters. No systematic errors were included. Fluxes in five energy bands were extracted in the same way as in 3FGL. The energy limits were set to 10, 20, 50, 150, 500 GeV, and 2 TeV. The width of the energy bins (in the logarithm) increases with energy in order to partially compensate for the decrease of photons due to the falling source spectra. Systematic uncertainties are estimated to be 5% in the first three bands, then 9% and 15%.⁶⁷ They are not included in the five individual uncertainties.

As for 2FHL, we evaluated the probabilities that the photons near each source originated from the source using *gtsrcprob*, and found the highest-energy photon with a probability $>85\%$.

2.5. Extended Sources

This work does not involve looking for new extended sources, or testing the possible extension of sources detected as point-like. As in the 3FGL catalog, we explicitly modeled as spatially extended those sources that had been shown in dedicated analyses to be resolved by the LAT.⁶⁸ The spectral parameters of each extended source were fitted in the same way as those for point sources. We did not attempt to refit the spatial shapes. Because many of those extended sources are much broader than the PSF at 10 GeV, we allowed the addition of new seeds inside the extended sources when their radii were larger than 0.4° (this differs from what was done at lower energies in 3FGL). Identified point sources (in practice, pulsars) were allowed in extended sources of any size.

The 3FGL catalog considered 25 extended sources. Five more were introduced in the 2FHL catalog. Several descriptions of extended sources have been improved upon since then (see Table 1 for details). In particular, the Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC) is now represented by four independent components (but only the hard compact components are detected above 10 GeV, not the large one at the scale of the entire galaxy). The RCW 86 and RX J1713.7–3946 supernova remnants (SNRs) also benefited from new templates. The W 41 template was corrected (an error made 2FHL J1834.5–0846e too narrow). A new extragalactic extended source was reported

in the lobes of the Fornax A radio galaxy. Two (G296.5+10.0 and MSH 15–56 = G326.3–1.8) were taken from the systematic study of Galactic SNRs.

A recent comprehensive search for extended sources above 10 GeV in the Galactic plane ($|b| < 7^\circ$, Ackermann et al. 2017) resulted in 46 detections, all represented as disks. Of those, 11 are new, and were entered as such in 3FHL (sources numbered FGES J1745.8–3028, J1857.7+0246, J2301.9+5855, J1023.3–5747, J1036.3–5833, J1213.3–6240, J1409.1–6121, J1507.9–6228, J1553.8–5325, J1652.2–4633, J1655.5–4737). FGES J1745.8–3028 was flagged in their work because the disk size was unstable with respect to the underlying diffuse model. We introduced it anyway, because it appears very significant (TS = 114) and preferred to two point sources. The 35 other detections coincide with previously detected extended sources. We switched to the new description only when it was clearly warranted, i.e., the fit was improved by $\Delta \log \mathcal{L} > 15 + p$, where p is the number of additional parameters, as in the Akaike criterion (Akaike 1974). We also kept the previous Gaussian template of the IC 443 SNR because it is closer to the radio SNR than the two disks in the FGES representation and allows the collection of all the flux into a single source, even though it exceeds the above criterion. Only one Galactic source not detected in FGES appears in 3FHL. This is the Cygnus Loop, which has TS just above threshold, and can be easily understood because Ackermann et al. (2017) analyzed only six years of data instead of seven here.

Thirteen extended source templates were abandoned in favor of the fitted disk representations:

1. W 28 is represented by the broader disk FGES J1800.5–2343, which encompasses the four sources found outside the SNR (Hanabata et al. 2014). Three of those sources were too faint to be recovered individually by the point-source detection algorithm. The brightest peak in W 28 proper, as well as the brightest outer peak (HESS J1800–240 B), were detected as individual point sources on top of FGES J1800.5–2343.
2. W 30 is represented by the disk FGES J1804.7–2144, shifted by about 0.2° with respect to the 3FGL disk. There is no doubt that the emission around 1 GeV, which is close to the SNR (Ajello et al. 2012), is not centered on the same direction as the emission above 10 GeV, which is closer to the TeV source HESS J1804–216 (Aharonian et al. 2006b).
3. Two sources within 1° of each other, G24.7+0.6 and HESS J1837–069, came from previous similar automatic searches for extended sources (Lande et al. 2012; Acero et al. 2016, respectively). They were replaced by the better representation involving three overlapping disks: FGES J1834.1–0706, J1836.5–0651, J1838.9–0704.
4. The previous templates for 2FHL sources SNR G150.3+4.5, J1112.1–6101e, HESS J1356–645, and J1420–607 (Ackermann et al. 2016b) were replaced by the disks FGES J0427.2+5533, J1109.4–6115, J1355.1–6420, and J1420.3–6046 (with much better statistics down to 10 GeV). FGES J0427.2+5533 is actually closer in size to the radio SNR (larger than the 2FHL size). FGES J1355.1–6420 and J1420.3–6046 are smaller than their 2FHL counterparts, closer to the TeV size.
5. The radio template for S 147 (Katsuta et al. 2012) was replaced by the flat disk FGES J0537.6+2751. With the

⁶⁷ http://fermi.gsfc.nasa.gov/ssc/data/analysis/LAT_caveats.html

⁶⁸ The templates and spectral models are available through the *Fermi* Science Support Center.

Table 1
Extended Sources Modeled in the 3FHL Analysis

3FHL Name	Extended Source	Changes	Spatial Form	Extent [deg]	References
	SMC	Updated	Map	1.5	Caputo et al. (2016)
	HB 3	New	Disk	0.8	Katagiri et al. (2016)
	W 3	New	Map	0.6	Katagiri et al. (2016)
J0322.6–3712e	Fornax A	New	Map	0.35	Ackermann et al. (2016c)
J0427.2+5533e	FGES J0427.2+5533	2FHL J0431.2+5553e	Disk	1.515	Ackermann et al. (2017)
	HB 9	New	Map	1.0	Araya (2014)
J0500.9–6945e	LMC FarWest	New	Map ^a	0.9	Ackermann et al. (2016d)
	LMC Galaxy	LMC	Map ^a	3.0	Ackermann et al. (2016d)
J0530.0–6900e	LMC 30DorWest	New	Map ^a	0.9	Ackermann et al. (2016d)
J0531.8–6639e	LMC North	New	Map ^a	0.6	Ackermann et al. (2016d)
J0537.6+2751e	FGES J0537.6+2751	S 147	Disk	1.394	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J0617.2+2234e	IC 443	Analytic	Gaussian	0.27	Abdo et al. (2010h)
J0822.1–4253e	FGES J0822.1–4253	Puppis A	Disk	0.443	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J0833.1–4511e	Vela X	Analytic	Disk	0.91	Abdo et al. (2010f)
J0851.9–4620e	FGES J0851.9–4620	Vela Jr	Disk	0.978	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J1023.3–5747e	FGES J1023.3–5747	New	Disk	0.278	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J1036.3–5833e	FGES J1036.3–5833	New	Disk	2.465	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J1109.4–6115e	FGES J1109.4–6115	2FHL J1112.1–6101e	Disk	1.267	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J1208.5–5243e	SNR G296.5+10.0	New	Disk	0.76	Acero et al. (2016)
J1213.3–6240e	FGES J1213.3–6240	New	Disk	0.332	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J1303.0–6312e	HESS J1303–631	Analytic	Gaussian	0.24	Aharonian et al. (2005)
	Centaurus A (lobes)	No change	Map	(2.5, 1.0)	Abdo et al. (2010c)
J1355.1–6420e	FGES J1355.1–6420	2FHL J1355.1–6420e	Disk	0.405	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J1409.1–6121e	FGES J1409.1–6121	New	Disk	0.733	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J1420.3–6046e	FGES J1420.3–6046	2FHL J1419.3–6048e	Disk	0.123	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J1443.0–6227e	RCW 86	2FHL J1443.2–6221e	Map	0.3	Ajello et al. (2016)
J1507.9–6228e	FGES J1507.9–6228	New	Disk	0.362	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J1514.2–5909e	FGES J1514.2–5909	MSH 15–52	Disk	0.243	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J1552.7–5611e	MSH 15–56	New	Disk	0.21	Acero et al. (2016)
J1553.8–5325e	FGES J1553.8–5325	New	Disk	0.523	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J1615.3–5146e	HESS J1614–518	Analytic	Disk	0.42	Lande et al. (2012)
J1616.2–5054e	HESS J1616–508	Analytic	Disk	0.32	Lande et al. (2012)
J1631.6–4756e	FGES J1631.6–4756	HESS J1632–478	Disk	0.256	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J1633.0–4746e	FGES J1633.0–4746	HESS J1632–478	Disk	0.610	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J1636.3–4731e	FGES J1636.3–4731	New	Disk	0.139	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J1652.2–4633e	FGES J1652.2–4633	New	Disk	0.718	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J1655.5–4737e	FGES J1655.5–4737	New	Disk	0.334	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J1713.5–3945e	RX J1713.7–3946	Corrected	Map	0.56	Abdalla et al. (2016)
J1745.8–3028e	FGES J1745.8–3028	New	Disk	0.528	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J1800.5–2343e	FGES J1800.5–2343	W 28	Disk	0.638	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J1804.7–2144e	FGES J1804.7–2144	W 30	Disk	0.378	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J1824.5–1351e	HESS J1825–137	Analytic	Gaussian	0.75	Grondin et al. (2011)
J1834.1–0706e	FGES J1834.1–0706	New	Disk	0.214	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J1834.5–0846e	W 41	Corrected	Gaussian	0.23	Abramowski et al. (2015)
J1836.5–0651e	FGES J1836.5–0651	HESS J1837–069	Disk	0.535	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J1838.9–0704e	FGES J1838.9–0704	HESS J1837–069	Disk	0.523	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J1840.9–0532e	HESS J1841–055	No change	2D Gaussian	(0.62, 0.38)	Aharonian et al. (2008)
J1855.9+0121e	W 44	No change	2D Ring	(0.30, 0.19)	Abdo et al. (2010g)
J1857.7+0246e	FGES J1857.7+0246	New	Disk	0.613	Ackermann et al. (2017)
J1923.2+1408e	W 51C	No change	2D Disk	(0.38, 0.26)	Abdo et al. (2009)
J2021.0+4031e	γ -Cygni	Analytic	Disk	0.63	Lande et al. (2012)
J2028.6+4110e	Cygnus X cocoon	Analytic	Gaussian	3.0	Ackermann et al. (2011a)
	HB 21	Analytic	Disk	1.19	Pivato et al. (2013)
J2051.0+3040e	Cygnus Loop	No change	Ring	1.65	Katagiri et al. (2011)
J2301.9+5855e	FGES J2301.9+5855	New	Disk	0.249	Ackermann et al. (2017)

Note. List of all sources that have been modeled as spatially extended. Sources without a 3FHL name did not reach the significance threshold in 3FHL. The Changes column gives the name of the source in previous catalogs in case of a change. The Extent column indicates the radius for Disk (flat disk) sources, the 68% containment radius for Gaussian sources, the outer radius for Ring (flat annulus) sources, and an approximate radius for Map (external template) sources. The 2D shapes are elliptical; each pair of parameters (a , b) represents the semimajor (a) and semiminor (b) axes.

^a Emissivity model.

flat disk that source is significant, whereas the radio template resulted in $TS < 25$.

6. The previous template for Puppis A (Hewitt et al. 2012) was replaced by the somewhat broader disk FGES J0822.1–4253, which follows more closely the radio and X-ray contour. Without this change a point source was necessary to fit the data just outside the previous disk.
7. The previous template for Vela Jr (Tanaka et al. 2011) was replaced by the somewhat smaller disk FGES J0851.9–4620, closer in size to the X-ray SNR.
8. The previous template for the pulsar wind nebula (PWN) MSH 15–52 (Abdo et al. 2010b) was replaced by FGES J1514.2–5909, shifted by about $0^\circ.1$ with respect to the 3FGL disk. Without this shift, a point source close to PSR B1509–58 was necessary, although this pulsar is known to have a very soft spectrum.
9. The previous template for HESS J1632–478 (Lande et al. 2012) was replaced by the combination of a broader disk (FGES J1631.6–4756) with two smaller ones on top of it (FGES J1633.0–4746 and J1636.3–4731), all with different spectra. Together they provide a much better representation at the cost of only two additional parameters (for extension), since two point sources were necessary next to HESS J1632–478.

For each of the extended sources, Table 1 lists its name, changes since 3FGL and 2FHL, if any, the spatial template description, the extent, and the reference to the dedicated analysis. In the catalog these sources are tabulated with the point sources, with the only distinction being that no position uncertainties are reported and their names end in e (see Section 3.1). Point sources inside extended ones are marked by “xxx field” in the ASSOC2 column of the catalog.

2.6. Background-only Simulation

The narrow PSF above 10 GeV implies that the number of independent positions in the sky is large. Therefore, we might expect a fraction of spurious sources from background fluctuations only. Taking a disk of radius $0^\circ.15$ (68% PSF containment radius at 10 GeV) as the source size, there are 6×10^5 independent positions in the sky. Since the probability to reach $TS > 25$ (χ^2 distribution with 4 degrees of freedom) is 5×10^{-5} , we might expect as many as 30 spurious sources.

In order to quantify this more precisely we simulated the full sky with the same exposure as the real data, assuming pure (Galactic + isotropic) background. Owing to the narrowness of the PSF above 10 GeV there is essentially no correlation between sources so it is not worth including sources in the simulation. The source detection step was not run in exactly the same way as the detection step run on the real data, because *mr_filter* uses a False Detection Rate threshold, which depends on the number of true sources. Since there is no true source in the simulation, the same setting would have resulted in very few seeds at the detection step. Instead we used a flat threshold at 4σ over all wavelet scales, resulting in 135 seeds over the entire sky. We merged those with the PGWave seeds, which are much more numerous (1955) because of the 3σ threshold.

The maximum likelihood analysis of these seeds (including localization) resulted in 10 sources at $TS > 25$ including 2 at $TS > 30$, randomly distributed over the sky, with $N_{\text{pred}} \simeq 6$ and formal position error $\sim 0^\circ.05$ (similar to the faint sources in the

real data). We conclude that the number of spurious sources in 3FHL is closer to 10 than the rough estimate of 30 given at the beginning of this section. This is a small fraction even of sources close to threshold in the real sky (192 at $25 \leq TS < 30$ and 161 at $30 \leq TS < 35$).

2.7. Source Association and Classification

We adopt the same procedure for evaluating the probabilities of association between γ -ray sources and potential counterparts previously used in 3FGL. This procedure is based on two different association methods, the Bayesian method (Abdo et al. 2010e) and the Likelihood-Ratio (LR) method (Ackermann et al. 2011b, 2015). The fractions of new associations provided by the two methods are different from 3FGL since the source populations are different, as described in Section 3.6. Following the same strategy as in the 3FGL, we distinguish between associated and identified sources. Associations depend primarily on close positional correspondence, whereas identifications require measurement of correlated variability at other wavelengths or characterization of the 3FHL source by its angular extent.

The Bayesian method is applied using the set of potential-counterpart catalogs listed in Table 12 of Acero et al. (2015), updated to the latest available versions. The priors are recalibrated via Monte-Carlo simulations to enable a proper estimate of the association probabilities and in turn of the false association rates. These rates indeed depend on the sizes of the error ellipses of the sources, whose distributions are appreciably different in the 3FGL and 3FHL catalogs. A total of 1187 associations with posterior probabilities greater than 0.80 are found via this method, with an estimated number of false positives of ~ 5 . Thanks to the updated catalogs (e.g., Massaro et al. 2015; Álvarez Crespo et al. 2016a, 2016b; Peña-Herazo et al. 2017), 25 unidentified 3FGL sources detected in 3FHL are now associated with blazars.

The Likelihood-Ratio method provides additional associations with blazar candidates based on large radio and X-ray surveys (typically including $>10^5$ sources). The Bayesian method in its current implementation cannot handle these surveys because their large source densities conduce to too many false positives. The resulting associated counterparts are then scrutinized using additional available multi-wavelength data to assess their classifications. If no or too-limited information is found, a sole association with radio counterparts is usually rejected, the high source densities in the radio surveys making the chance of false positives exceedingly large. A total of 1151 3FHL sources are associated by this method, of which 150 (with an estimated number of 15 false positives) are not associated by the Bayesian method. In these 150 sources, 44 have 3FGL counterparts as well. As an exception to the rejection criterion outlined above, if the counterpart belongs to the ROSAT X-ray survey (which has a much lower source density than the radio surveys), we do report the association with a classification left as *unknown*. These sources (23 in total) are not particularly different from the unassociated sources in their γ -ray properties or sky locations. Follow-up observations would be particularly useful to determine their nature. Associations with γ -ray sources reported in earlier LAT catalogs are established by requiring an overlap of their respective 95% error ellipses. Note that in the rare cases (six in total) where conflicting Bayesian-based associations are found for a 3FHL source and its 3FGL counterpart, we give

preference to the choice presenting the smaller error ellipse, foregoing consistency with 3FGL in some cases. The results of the association procedures are summarized in Table 2. Figure 2 shows the distributions of angular separation between the 3FHL sources and their assigned counterparts. The good agreement with the expected distributions for real associations visible in this figure provides confidence in the reliability of the associations.

The associated blazars were optically classified as flat-spectrum radio quasars (FSRQs), BL Lacs, and blazars of unknown types (BCUs, Shaw et al. 2012, 2013). The source peak frequencies were adopted from 3LAC (Ackermann et al. 2015), when available, or determined via the same approach. Low-synchrotron peak (LSP), intermediate-synchrotron peak (ISP), and high-synchrotron peak (HSP) blazars are those with $\log_{10}(\nu_{\text{peak}}^s) < 14$, $14 < \log_{10}(\nu_{\text{peak}}^s) < 15$, $\log_{10}(\nu_{\text{peak}}^s) > 15$, respectively, with ν_{peak}^s given in units of Hz.

3. The 3FHL Catalog

The 3FHL catalog includes 1556 sources detected over the whole sky. (We note that the number of sources in the 3FHL catalog is more than the 1506 γ rays detected above 10 GeV by the EGRET experiment on the predecessor *Compton* Gamma-ray Observatory mission, Thompson et al. 2005). The association procedure (see Section 2.7) finds that 79% of the sources in the catalog (1231 sources) are extragalactic, 8% (125) are Galactic, and 13% (200) are unassociated (or associated with a source of unknown nature). Of the unassociated/unknown sources, 83 are located at $|b| < 10^\circ$, and 117 are located at $|b| \geq 10^\circ$. Since sources outside the plane are typically extragalactic, the fraction of extragalactic sources in the sample is likely about 87%. Figure 3 shows the locations of 3FHL sources color-coded by source class.

3.1. Description of the Catalog

The FITS files format of the 3FHL catalog⁶⁹ is similar to that of the 3FGL catalog (Acero et al. 2015). The file has four binary table extensions. The `LAT_Point_Source_Catalog` extension has all of the information about the sources (see Table 3 for details). The catalog is available in a `.tar.gz` package.

Relative to previous LAT catalogs, two changes are important.

1. The parameters of the curved (LogParabola) spectral shape, which is systematically tested against a power law, are now always reported via the `Spectral_Index` and `beta` columns, even when the curvature is not significant (`Signif_Curve < 3`). The photon index of the power-law model is always reported via the `PowerLaw_Index` column. In 3FGL `Spectral_Index` contained the power-law index when the power-law model was adopted. The `Flux_Density`, `Flux` and `Energy_Flux` columns still refer to the preferred model (`SpectrumType`).
2. The format of the spectral energy distributions (SEDs) differs. Now, we give the fluxes and their uncertainties for each source in a vector column matching the number of energy bins. These bins are documented in the `EnergyBounds` extension. The level of the relative

systematic uncertainty on the effective area in each band (`SysRel` column) is given in the same extension.

The extensions `ExtendedSources` and `ROIs` (format unchanged since 3FGL) contain information about the 55 extended sources (Table 1) that were included in the analysis (only 48 were detected) and the 741 ROIs over which the analysis ran. The extended sources are singled out by an `e` appended to their names in the main table. The background parameters are reported in the `ROIs` extension following the model described in the Appendix. The `GTI` extension is not included because it would dominate the volume of the file.

3.2. General Characteristics of Sources

The 3FHL sources have integrated fluxes above 10 GeV that range from 1.3×10^{-11} $\text{ph cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ (approximately 0.5% of the Crab Nebula flux) to 1.2×10^{-8} $\text{ph cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$, with a median of 5.0×10^{-11} $\text{ph cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$.

The median spectral index is 2.48, which is characteristic of relatively hard sources. In Figure 4, we show the spectral index distributions by source class. The figure shows that Galactic sources tend to have a broader range of spectral indices, whereas the distribution of extragalactic sources peaks at about an index of 2. There is also a clear bimodality in the Galactic index distribution produced by the SNR+PWN and PSR populations (see Section 3.5 for details). The population of unknown sources follows a similar trend as the blazars, SNRs, and PWNe but is different from PSRs. The median of the positional uncertainty is $0^\circ.038$ (2.3 arcmin; we note that about 75% of the 3FGL sources present in the 3FHL now have smaller localization uncertainties). Figure 5 illustrates that the detection threshold on photon flux does not depend strongly on spectral index (the same is not true for the energy flux). The reason for this is the constancy of the LAT per-photon resolution with energy at $E \geq 10$ GeV. We note that extragalactic sources are detected to lower fluxes than Galactic objects, highlighting that the sensitivity for source detection becomes worse in the plane of the Galaxy. Figure 6 shows the flux sensitivity as a function of sky location (see the appendix of Ackermann et al. 2013).

Figure 7 shows example SEDs for four sources over four decades in energy, which combine 3FGL and 3FHL spectral data (the 1FHL data are also shown for comparison).

3.3. Comparison with the 1FHL Catalog

In this section, we compare the 3FHL results with those of the previous *Fermi*-LAT catalog at similar energies (i.e., the 1FHL, Ackermann et al. 2013).

The 1FHL was based on the first 3 years of data and the Pass 7 event reconstruction and classification analysis. For 3FHL we have analyzed 7 years of data using Pass 8. The total number of detected sources has increased by a factor of 3, from 514 to 1556. A simple scaling of the sensitivity, assuming a background-limited scenario, would suggest ≤ 1000 sources in 3FHL. The much larger number of sources detected in 3FHL shows that the sensitivity, for ≥ 10 GeV, improves nearly linearly with time.⁷⁰ This is because the *Fermi*-LAT operates in a counts-limited regime at these energies. This is demonstrated

⁶⁹ The file is available from the *Fermi* Science Support Center.

⁷⁰ We have assumed that the fluxes of the sources are distributed as a Euclidean $\log N$ - $\log S$, i.e., $N(>F) \propto F^{-3/2}$, where N is the number of sources above a given flux F .

Table 2
3FHL Source Classes

Description	Identified		Associated	
	Designator	Number	Designator	Number
Pulsar	PSR	53	psr	6
Pulsar Wind Nebula	PWN	9	pwn	8
Supernova remnant	SNR	13	snr	17
Supernova remnant/Pulsar wind nebula	...	...	spp	9
High-mass binary	HMB	4	hmb	1
Binary	BIN	1	...	...
Globular cluster	...	...	glc	2
Star-forming region	SFR	1	sfr	1
Starburst galaxy	...	...	sbg	4
BL Lac type of blazar	BLL	19	bll	731
Flat-spectrum radio quasar type of blazar	FSRQ	30	fsrq	142
Non-blazar active galaxy	...	...	agn	1
Narrow-line seyfert 1	NYLS1	1	...	...
Radio galaxy	RDG	4	rdg	9
Blazar candidate of uncertain type	...	...	bcu	290
Total	identified	136	associated	1220
Unclassified	...	...	unknown	23
Unassociated	...	...	...	177
Total in the 3FHL	...	...	...	1556

Note. The designation “spp” indicates potential association with SNR or PWN. Designations shown in capital letters are firm identifications; small letters indicate associations. Note that the PWN N 157 B in the LMC is counted as Galactic.

by the comparison of the flux distributions of the 1FHL and 3FHL sources in Figure 8. Indeed, a decrease in the median flux of a factor about 3, from 1.3×10^{-10} to 5.0×10^{-11} $\text{ph cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$, is apparent. The median of the spectral index distributions remains similar in both catalogs. In Figure 8, we see that the 3FHL increases the size of the population of hard sources ($\Gamma \sim 1.8$) that was discovered in 1FHL. These are faint and hard HSP BL Lacs (see Section 3.6 for more details) that are detected in 3FHL because of the improved sensitivity at high energies delivered by Pass 8. Furthermore, Figure 8 also compares the distributions of positional uncertainties. There is a clear improvement in the median positional resolution by approximately a factor of 2, from 4.7 to 2.3 arcmin, 95% C.L. This is better than the 3.8 arcmin median location uncertainty (95% C.L.) of 2FHL (Ackermann et al. 2016b) thanks to the generally larger statistics existing at >10 GeV for 3FHL sources. Figure 8 also shows the distributions of detection significance for both catalogs.

Sixteen 1FHL sources are missing in 3FHL. Among these, only one was very significant, 1FHL J1758.3–2340 with $\text{TS} = 47$. In 3FHL this source is now part of the FGES J1800.5–2343 disk, which is broader than W 28 was in 1FHL. The rest of the missing sources had a TS between 25 and 30. Three of the missing 1FHL sources are parts of new extended sources: 1FHL J0425.4+5601 and 1FHL J0432.2+5555 in FGES J0427.2+5533 and 1FHL J1643.7–4705 in FGES J1633.0–4746. Only one other missing 1FHL source (1FHL J1830.6–0147) had $N_{\text{pred}} > 4$. It coincides with a cluster of

four 3FGL sources, so it is possibly an extended source remaining to be discovered. All of these sources have corresponding seeds in the 3FHL analysis pipeline that were rejected from the catalog for having a $\text{TS} \sim 15$. We stress that the 1FHL catalog was built from Pass 7 Clean class events (before reprocessing). Therefore, the set of events was rather different, and the PSF was significantly broader.

3.4. New γ -ray Sources and TeV Candidates

Thanks to the unprecedented low flux limit of our analysis at $E > 10$ GeV, the 3FHL analysis has revealed a large number of new sources. The number of 3FHL sources without a 3FGL counterpart is 258, and of these 214 have no counterparts in any previous *Fermi*-LAT catalog.⁷¹ Of these 214, 3 have been detected with IACTs, i.e., 3FHL J0632.7+0550 (HESS J0632+057, Caliendo et al. 2015), 3FHL J1303.0–6350 (PSR B1259–63, which flared after the 3FGL time period), and 3FHL J1714.0–3811 (CTB 37B, previously unresolved). In summary, the 3FHL has 211 sources previously unknown in γ rays. The sky locations and classes of the 214 sources are shown in Figure 9. This figure shows that while most of them appear to be isotropically distributed, some fraction of the unassociated new sources appears to lie in the Galactic plane (see Section 3.5).

Figure 10 shows that the new sources follow an index distribution similar to that of the previously detected sources but are fainter. Most new sources are either extragalactic or unassociated (but probably extragalactic). The new Galactic sources tend to be already known to be spatially extended from IACT observations, and we model them as such.

IACTs have excellent flux sensitivities at TeV energies but limited fields of view that make finding new sources challenging. The 3FHL is a resource for planning IACT observations. The catalog lists the highest-energy photon (HEP) detected by the LAT and its probability of association with a given source. Sources with HEPs of hundreds of GeV, small indices (hard spectra), and large fluxes are a priori good candidates for IACTs. However, the majority of the γ -ray sources detected by the LAT in 3FHL may be too faint for the current-generation IACTs, which can reach a sensitivity of 2.7×10^{-12} $\text{erg cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ (this is $>1\%$ – 2% of the Crab Nebula flux at $\gtrsim 100$ GeV in 50 hr of observation). Of the 1423 3FHL sources that have not been detected by IACTs, only 8 have >100 GeV flux $> 10^{-12}$ $\text{erg cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ($\sim 0.3\%$ of the Crab Nebula flux). Of those eight, six are already reported in 2FHL, while the remaining two are extended sources (3FHL J1036.3–5833e and 3FHL J1824.5–1351e) in the Galactic plane. These two sources are the brightest among the above group, with >100 GeV flux of $\sim 30\%$ and $\sim 50\%$ of the Crab Nebula flux, respectively, and HEPs of ~ 355 GeV and 586 GeV. Thus, hard Galactic sources, with limited extension, may be the best targets for current-generation IACTs.

In the TEVCAT_FLAG column of the catalog, we have flagged the sources considered as good TeV candidates based on these criteria (which are from Ackermann et al. 2013, see Section 5.1 of that paper): (1) the source significance above 50 GeV is $\sigma_{50} > 3$, (2) the power-law spectral index above 10 GeV is $\Gamma < 3$, and (3) the integrated flux above 50 GeV is $F_{50} > 10^{-11}$ $\text{ph cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$. This selection results in 246 candidates for TeV detection.

⁷¹ Note that the detections of 34 of them were already reported by Arsioli and Chang (2017).

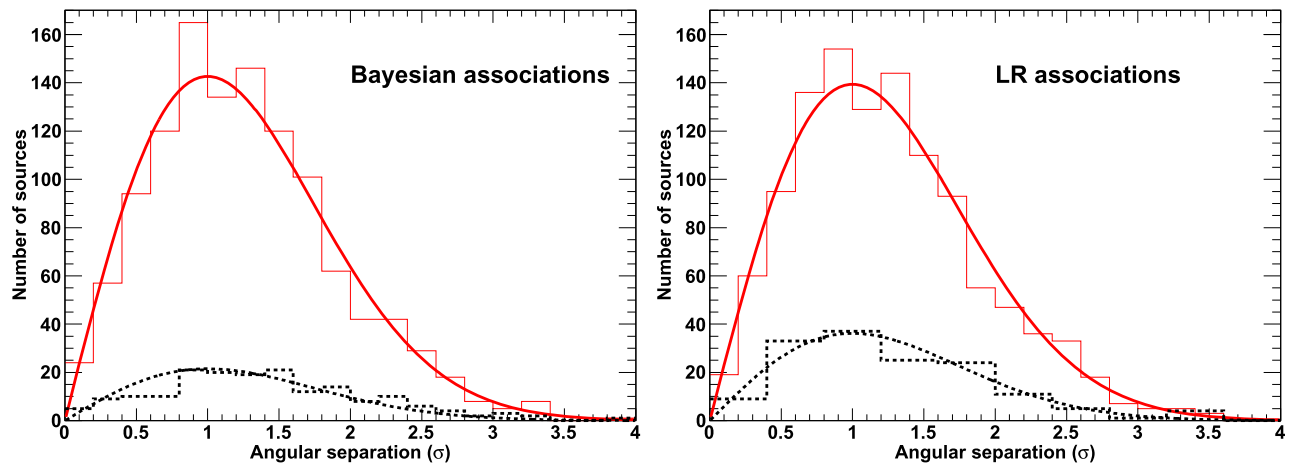


Figure 2. Distributions of angular separations in σ units between 3FHL sources and their counterparts ($r_{95} = 2.448\sigma$). (Left panel): sources associated with the Bayesian method (red solid line) and sources solely associated with that method (black dotted line). (Right panel): Same, but for the LR method. The curves correspond to the expected distributions for real associations.

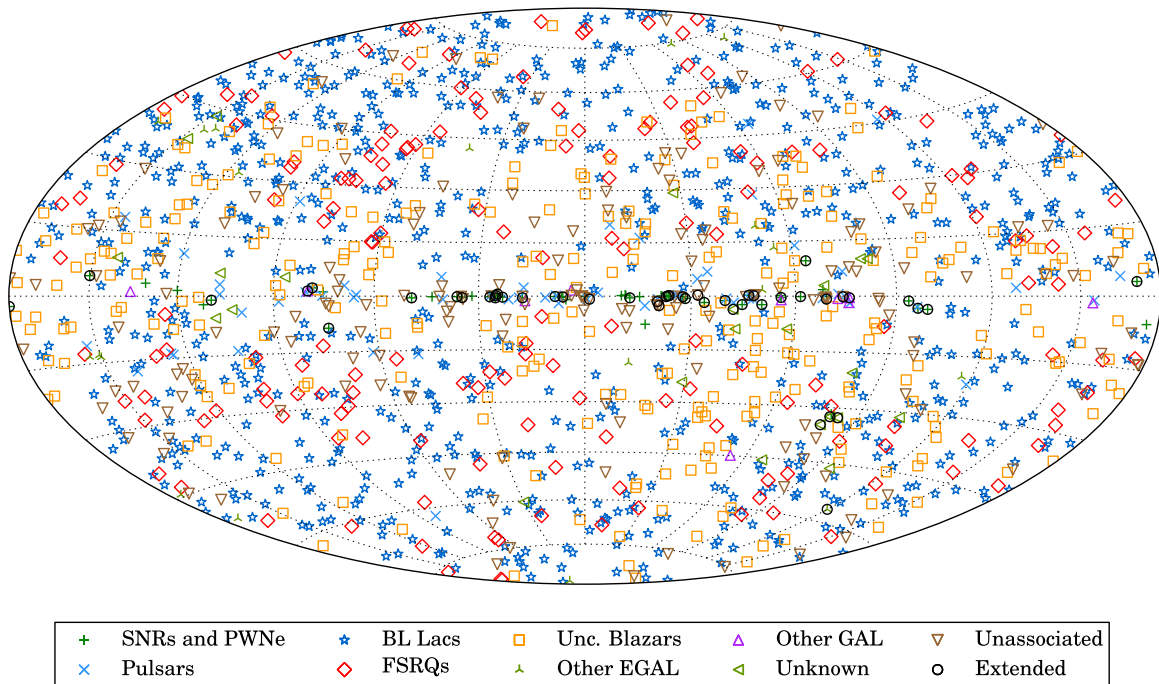


Figure 3. Sky map, in Galactic coordinates and Hammer–Aitoff projection, showing the objects in the 3FHL catalog classified by their most likely source classes.

3.5. The Galactic Population

The majority of Galactic sources detected in 3FHL are sources at the final stage of stellar evolution such as pulsars, PWNe, and SNRs, many of which are detected as extended, and high-mass binaries.

In this catalog 125 sources are associated with Galactic objects and 83 are unassociated within the plane of our Galaxy ($|b| < 10^\circ$). The same low Galactic latitude region has 133 extragalactic objects. Considering the density of extragalactic sources outside of the plane and the decreased sensitivity for source detection in the plane, we estimate that ≈ 25 –40 of the 83 unassociated objects may be Galactic. Indeed, the distribution in Galactic latitude of unassociated sources (see Figure 11) shows a peaked profile for $|b| < 2^\circ$ on top of a flat isotropic background.

The spectral index distribution of Galactic sources is broad, with a median index $\Gamma \approx 3$ as shown by Figure 12. This arises from the superposition of the distributions of the indices of the different source classes. The majority of sources are pulsars, and at >10 GeV, the LAT samples their super-exponential cutoffs, yielding a median spectral index of $\Gamma \approx 4$. Sources classified as pulsars in 3FGL retain this classification in 3FHL for consistency. A source is reclassified as PWN only if it is associated with a known, small-size PWN and has a rising SED indicative of a dominant PWN component. Only 3FHL J0205.5+6449, 3FHL J0534.5+2201, and 3FHL J1124.4-5916 have been reclassified accordingly. SNRs and PWNe account for 56 objects. Their similar index distributions translate into much harder spectra than the rest, having a median of $\Gamma \approx 2$. The unassociated sources within the plane of the Galaxy display the full range of spectral indices $1 < \Gamma < 5$. However, those

Table 3
LAT 3FHL FITS Format: LAT_Point_Source_Catalog Extension

Column	Format	Unit	Description
Source_Name	18A	...	Official source name 3FHL JHHMM.m+DDMM
RAJ2000	E	deg	R.A.
DEJ2000	E	deg	Decl.
GLON	E	deg	Galactic Longitude
GLAT	E	deg	Galactic Latitude
Conf_95_SemiMajor	E	deg	Error radius at 95% confidence
Conf_95_SemiMinor	E	deg	=Conf_95_SemiMajor in 3FHL
Conf_95_PosAng	E	deg	NULL in 3FHL (error circles)
ROI_num	I	...	ROI number (cross-reference to ROIs extension)
Signif_Avg	E	...	Source significance in σ units over the 10 GeV to 2 TeV band
Pivot_Energy	E	GeV	Energy at which error on differential flux is minimal
Flux_Density	E	$\text{cm}^{-2} \text{GeV}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$	Differential flux at Pivot_Energy
Unc_Flux_Density	E	$\text{cm}^{-2} \text{GeV}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$	1σ error on differential flux at Pivot_Energy
Flux	E	$\text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	Integral photon flux from 10 GeV to 1 TeV obtained by spectral fitting
Unc_Flux	E	$\text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	1σ error on integral photon flux from 10 GeV to 1 TeV
Energy_Flux	E	$\text{erg cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	Energy flux from 10 GeV to 1 TeV obtained by spectral fitting
Unc_Energy_Flux	E	$\text{erg cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	1σ error on energy flux from 10 GeV to 1 TeV
Signif_Curve	E	...	Significance (in σ units) of the fit improvement between power-law and LogParabola. A value greater than 3 indicates significant curvature
SpectrumType	18A	...	Spectral type (PowerLaw or LogParabola)
Spectral_Index	E	...	Best-fit photon number index at Pivot_Energy when fitting with LogParabola
Unc_Spectral_Index	E	...	1σ error on Spectral_Index
beta	E	...	Curvature parameter β when fitting with LogParabola
Unc_beta	E	...	1σ error on β
PowerLaw_Index	E	...	Best-fit photon number index when fitting with power law
Unc_PowerLaw_Index	E	...	1σ error on PowerLaw_Index
Flux_Band	5E	$\text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	Integral photon flux in each spectral band
Unc_Flux_Band	10E	$\text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	1σ lower and upper error on Flux_Band ^a
nuFnu	E	$\text{erg cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$	Spectral energy distribution over each spectral band
Sqrt_TS_Band	E	...	Square root of the Test Statistic in each spectral band
Npred	E	...	Predicted number of events in the model
HEP_Energy	E	GeV	Highest energy among events probably coming from the source
HEP_Prob	E	...	Probability of that event to come from the source
Variability_BayesBlocks	I	...	Number of Bayesian blocks from variability analysis; 1 if not variable, -1 if could not be tested
Extended_Source_Name	18A	...	Cross-reference to the ExtendedSources extension
ASSOC_GAM	18A	...	Correspondence to previous γ -ray source catalog ^b
TEVCAT_FLAG	A	...	P if positional association with non-extended source in TeVCat E if associated with an extended source in TeVCat, N if no TeV association C if TeV source candidate as defined in Section 3.4
ASSOC_TEV	24A	...	Name of likely corresponding TeV source from TeVCat, if any
CLASS	7A	...	Class designation for associated source; see Table 2
ASSOC1	26A	...	Name of identified or likely associated source
ASSOC2	26A	...	Alternate name or indicates whether the source is inside an extended 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
Redshift	E	...	Redshift of counterpart, if known
NuPeak_obs	E	Hz	Frequency of the synchrotron peak of counterpart, if known

Notes.

^a Separate 1σ errors are computed from the likelihood profile toward lower and larger fluxes. The lower error is set equal to NULL and the upper error is derived from a Bayesian upper limit if the 1σ interval contains 0 ($TS < 1$).

^b In the order 3FGL > 2FHL > 1FHL > 2FGL > 1FGL > EGRET.

within $|b| < 2^\circ$ primarily have $\Gamma < 2.5$, suggesting PWN or SNR natures. At latitudes $|b| \geq 10^\circ$ the 3FHL catalog contains 15 millisecond pulsars (MSPs) of which 13 are classified as PSR (discovered pulsating in γ rays by the LAT) and 2 as psr (radio MSP with no detection of γ pulsations). We also find three young pulsars classified as LAT PSR and one PWN in the LMC (N 157B).

With respect to the 1FHL catalog, the 3FHL doubled the number of Galactic objects detected at >10 GeV, maintaining similar proportions among the source classes. On the other hand, the Galactic sources in the 2FHL catalog, because of its >50 GeV threshold, are primarily PWNe/SNRs, with only one pulsar. Within the region $|b| \leq 5^\circ$, which is where the diffuse flux is the brightest, the sensitivity of the 3FHL

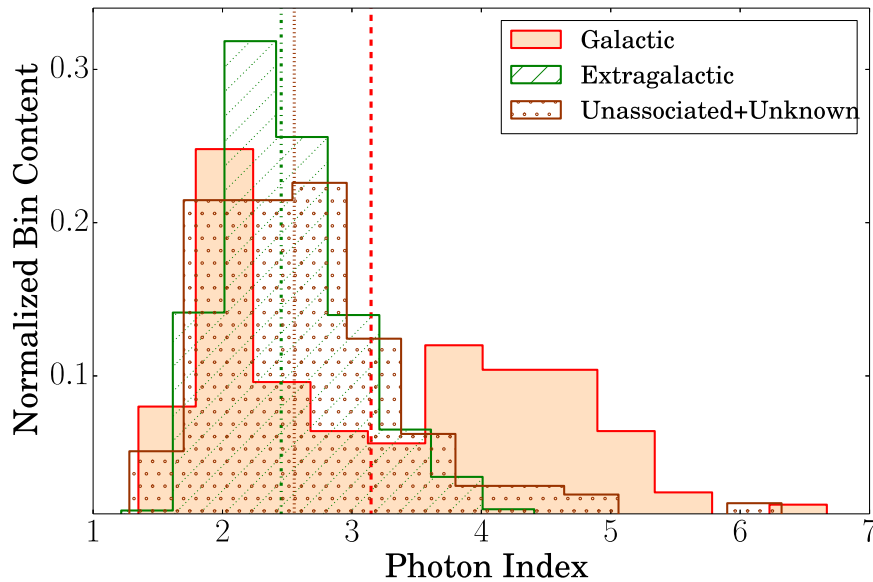


Figure 4. Normalized distributions of the spectral indices of the Galactic sources (orange), extragalactic sources (green slash), and unassociated plus unknown sources (brown dotted) in 3FHL. The medians of the distributions are plotted with dashed, dashed–dotted, and dotted vertical lines, respectively.

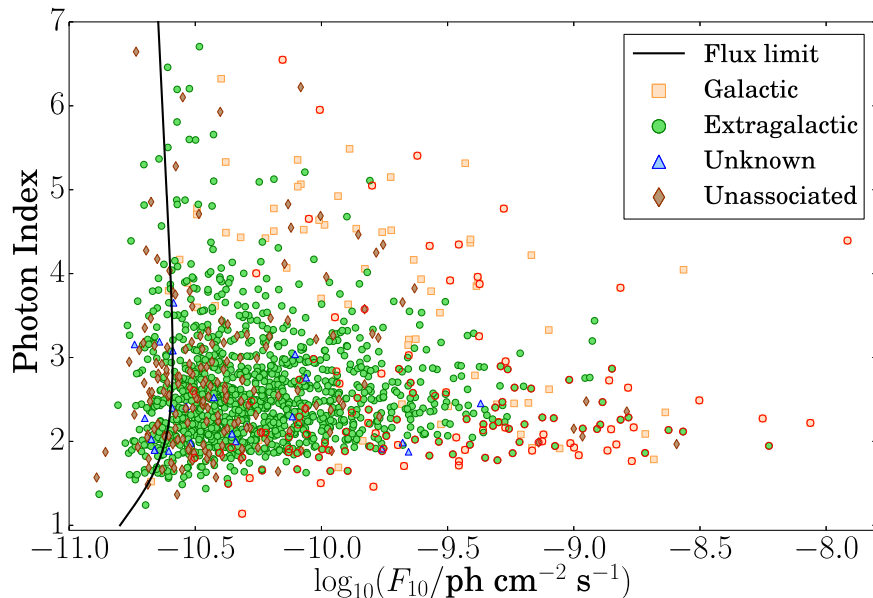


Figure 5. The spectral index of Galactic (orange squares), extragalactic (green circles), unknown (blue triangles), and unassociated sources (brown diamonds) vs. the integrated photon flux above 10 GeV. The black line shows the flux limit averaged over the high-latitude sky ($|b| \geq 10^\circ$). Symbols outlined with red are in the TeVCat.

analysis reaches a median of $\sim 5 \times 10^{-12} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$; this is $\sim 1\%$ of the Crab Nebula flux in the 10 GeV–2 TeV band. Transformed to the energy range >1 TeV based on the Crab Nebula spectrum, this corresponds to an energy flux of $\sim 8 \times 10^{-13} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$, which is slightly better than the sensitivity of $\sim 1.4 \times 10^{-12} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ reached at >1 TeV by H.E.S.S. in its Galactic plane survey (Aharonian et al. 2006b; Carrigan et al. 2013). Within the footprint⁷² of the H.E.S.S. survey, where H.E.S.S. detects 69 objects (reported in TeVCat⁷³), the LAT detects 111 objects, of which 43 are in

⁷² The H.E.S.S. Galactic survey extends over the range $283^\circ < l < 59^\circ$ and Galactic latitudes of $|b| < 3.5^\circ$.

⁷³ <http://tevcat.uchicago.edu/>

common with H.E.S.S. Detections at TeV energies are related to the spectral hardness. Indeed, the median spectral index of 3FHL sources detected in the H.E.S.S. survey is ~ 2.0 , while it is ~ 2.5 for those that are undetected. Cut-out images of the Galactic plane are shown in Figure 13.

Of the 15 hardest sources ($\Gamma \leq 1.7$) detected at latitudes $|b| < 10^\circ$, only four and seven are detected in TeVCat and 2FHL, respectively. There are five objects associated with Galactic classes, four blazars, and six are unassociated. None of the blazars are in the TeVCat, possibly due to source activity. Variability cannot affect the comparison between the 3FHL and 2FHL because they span essentially the same time period. Indeed, all of the 3FHL AGNs located in the Galactic Plane were included in 2FHL.

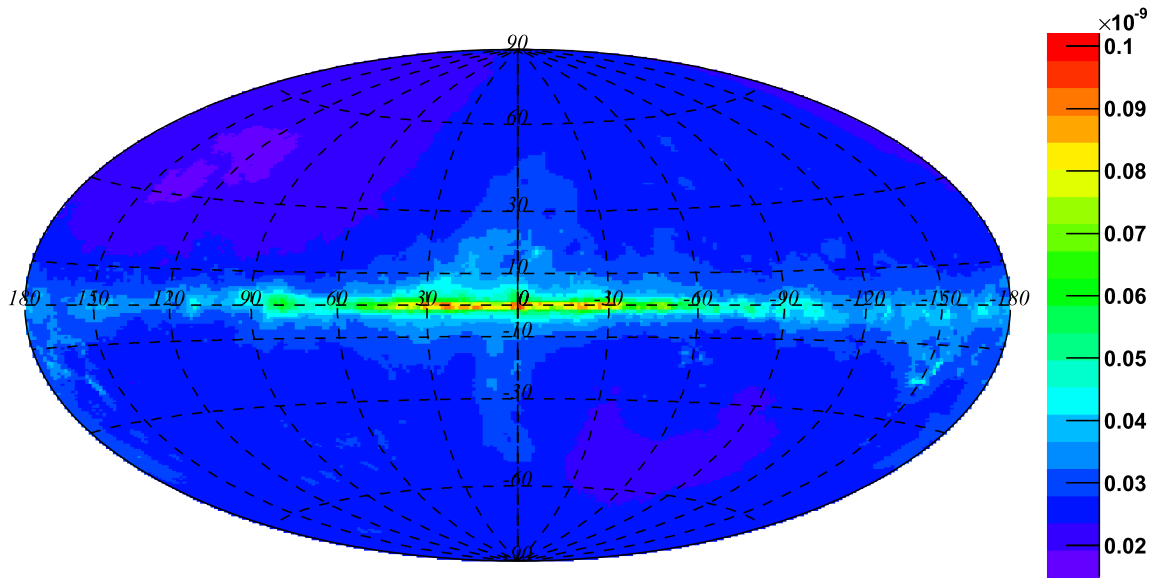


Figure 6. Point-source flux limit in units of $\text{ph cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ for $E > 10 \text{ GeV}$ and photon spectral index $\Gamma = 2.5$ as a function of sky location (in Galactic coordinates) for the 3FHL time interval.

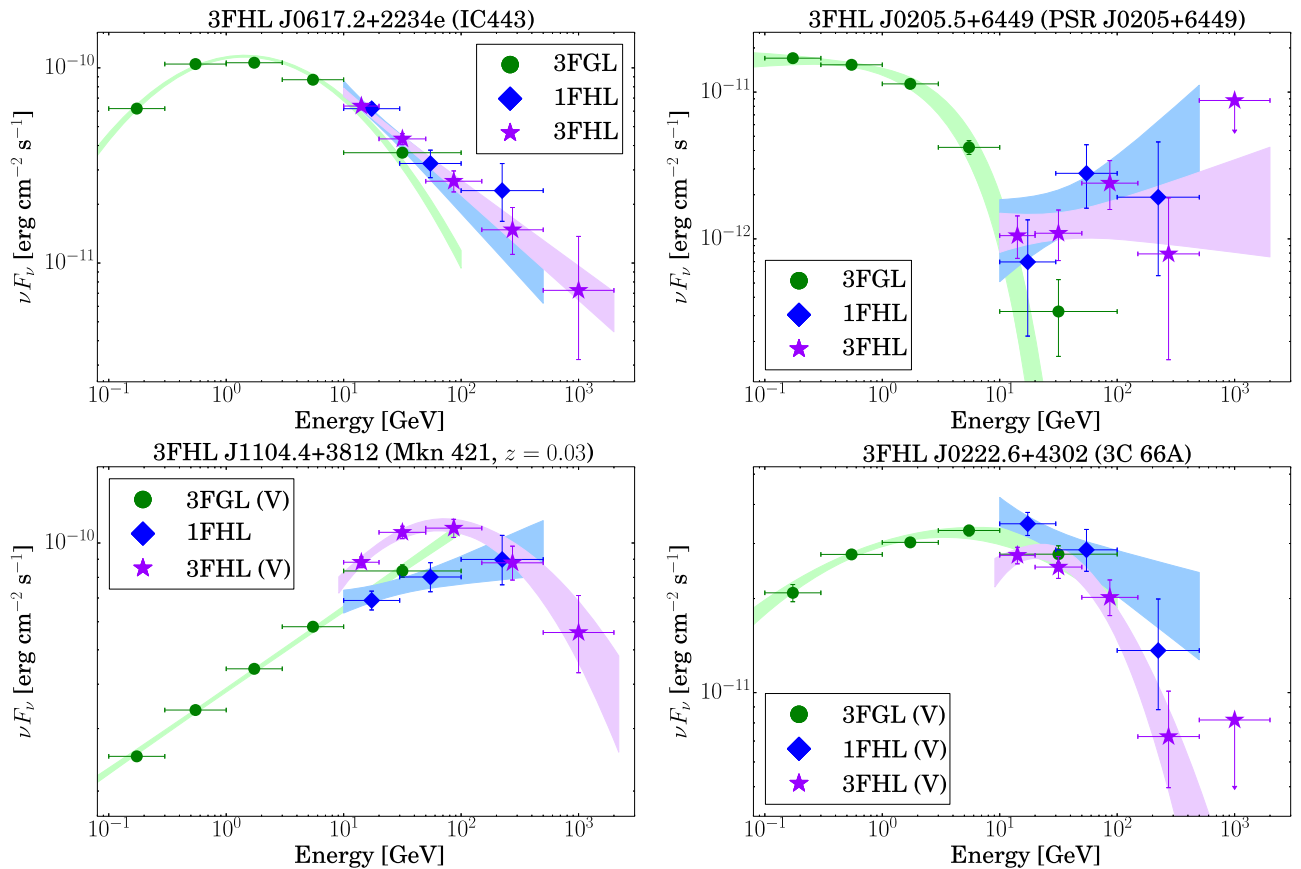


Figure 7. Examples of SEDs for 3FHL sources. We combined the spectral data from the 3FGL (green circles) and 3FHL (magenta stars) to provide spectral coverage over four orders of magnitude. The 1FHL data (blue diamonds) are shown for comparison, when available. The (V) stands for variable source according to the criteria in the respective catalog. We note that the SEDs of Mkn 421 (lower left panel) and 3C 66A (lower right panel) are characterized by a log-parabola shape. In these cases, a curved model is preferred over a power law at a significance of 3.1σ and 3.3σ , respectively.

3.6. The Extragalactic Population

The sky above 10 GeV is dominated by extragalactic sources (1231 sources, 79% of the whole catalog). Blazars are the most numerous source type. We find associations with 750 BL Lacs, 172 FSRQs, 290 BCUs, and 19 extragalactic sources with a

different classification (representing 61%, 14%, 23%, and 2% of the total extragalactic sky, respectively). These results differ from what was found at $>50 \text{ GeV}$ (i.e., 2FHL). In the 2FHL, 65% of the sources with $|b| > 10^\circ$ were associated with BL Lacs (mostly HSP BL Lacs) and only 4% with FSRQs.

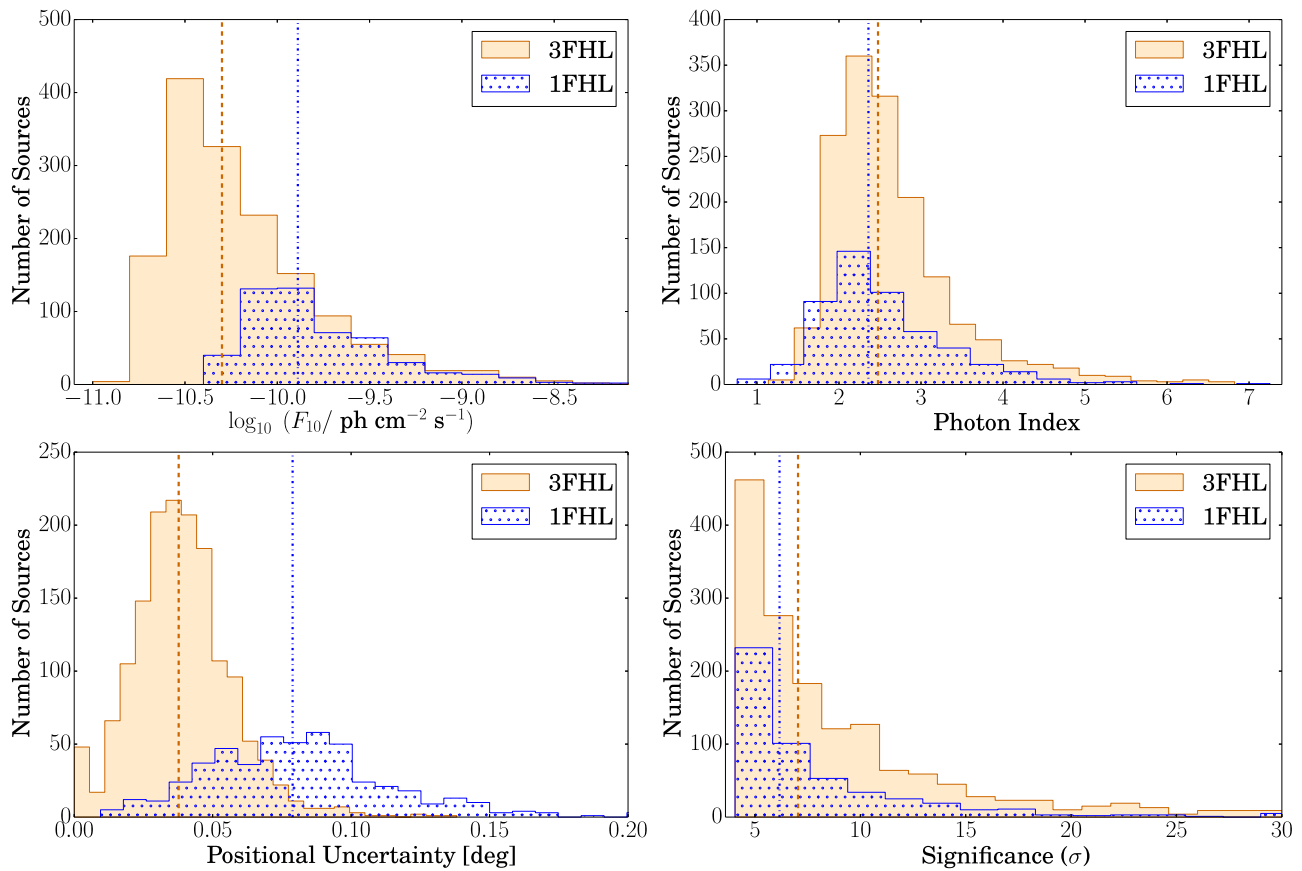


Figure 8. Distributions of properties of 3FHL and 1FHL sources. (Upper left panel): integrated flux above 10 GeV. (Upper right panel): spectral index. (Lower left panel): positional uncertainty (95% error radius). (Lower right panel): significance of detection. The medians are shown with vertical lines.

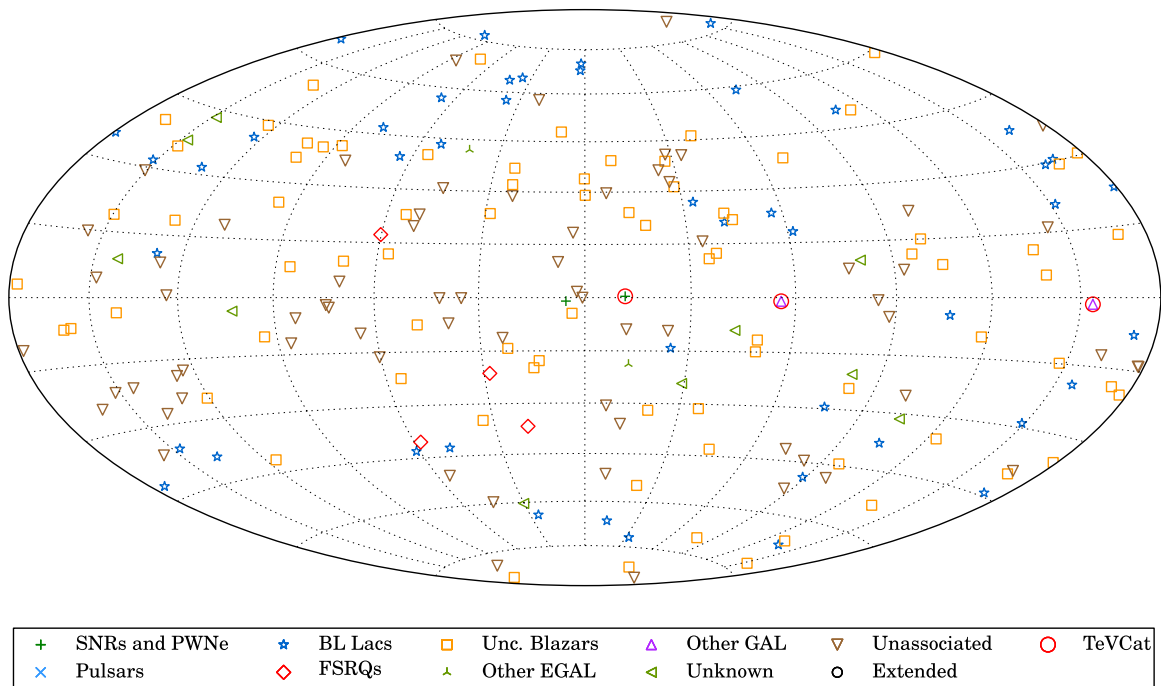


Figure 9. Sky map, in Galactic coordinates and Hammer-Aitoff projection, showing the 214 3FHL objects not previously reported in *Fermi*-LAT catalogs. The sources are classified by their most likely source class. The 3 sources already found by IACTs are indicated with open red circles.

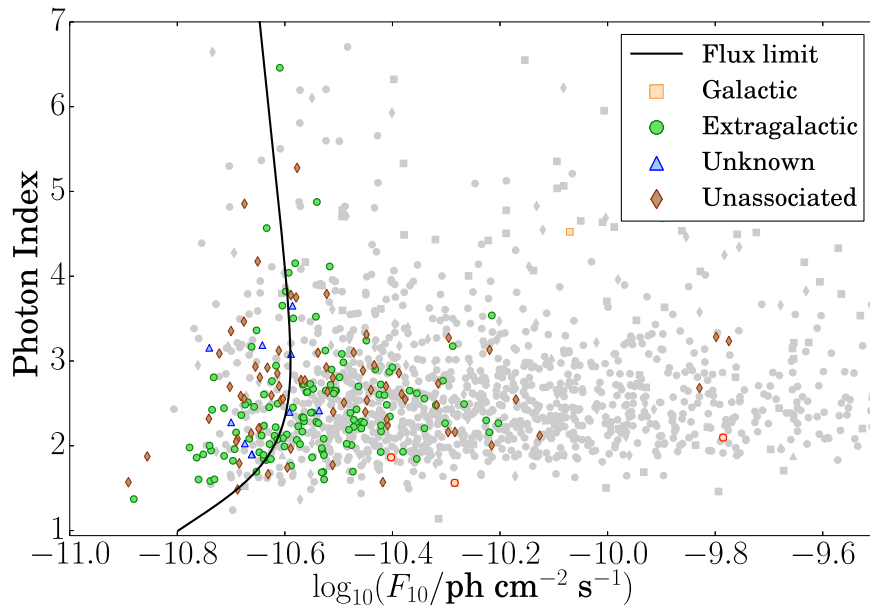


Figure 10. The spectral index of Galactic (orange squares), extragalactic (green circles), unknown (blue triangles), and unassociated sources (brown diamonds) vs. the integrated flux above 10 GeV for the 3FHL sources not in previous *Fermi*-LAT catalogs. The black line shows the flux limit averaged over the high-latitude sky ($|b| \geq 10^\circ$). Symbols with a red outline are sources already detected at TeV energies and contained in the TeVCat catalog. For comparison, the rest of the 3FHL sources are shown as gray symbols.

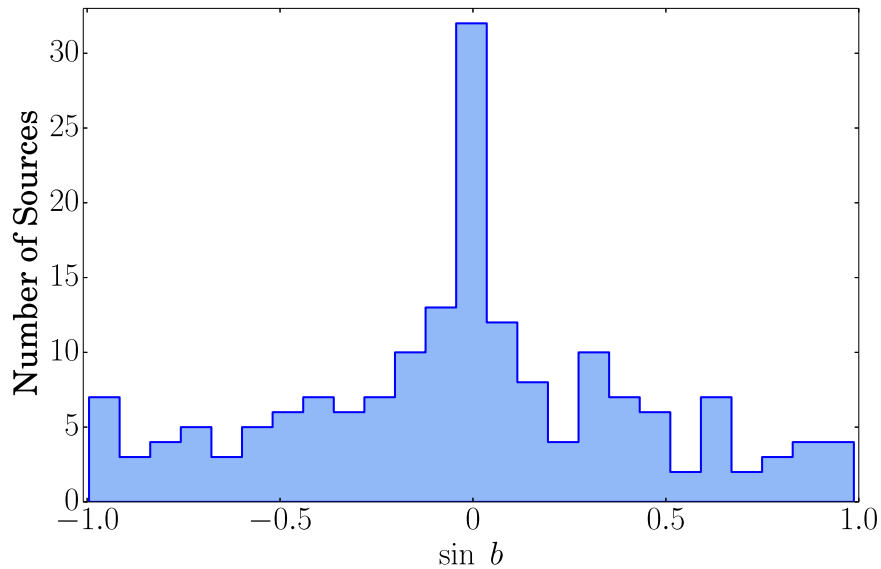


Figure 11. Distribution of unassociated sources over the sine of the Galactic latitude. This distribution peaks at $|b| < 2^\circ$ on top of an isotropic background of sources.

However, at >10 GeV there is a more diverse AGN population, confirming that a strong spectral cutoff in the range 10–50 GeV is common.

Figure 14 shows the distribution of synchrotron-peak frequencies of blazars detected in the 3FGL, 2FHL, and 3FHL (Abdo et al. 2010a). The 3FGL and 2FHL catalogs clearly sample different parts of the blazar population, with the 3FGL including mostly LSPs and ISPs and the 2FHL including mostly HSPs. The 3FHL BL Lac population is more heterogeneous and includes blazars with a broader range of ν_{peak}^s . The BL Lacs in 3FHL include 153 LSPs (20%), 198 ISPs (27%), 324 HSPs (43%), and 75 sources with unknown ν_{peak}^s

(10%). These fractions are intermediate between those for blazars found in 3FGL and 2FHL.

The 3FHL contains 131 new extragalactic sources. These are typically fainter than the average 3FHL source, and have spectral indexes similar to the average (~ 2.2). There are 1078 3FHL extragalactic sources detected in the 3FGL, 16 in the 2FHL (and not 3FGL). No 1FHL extragalactic source is missing in the 3FHL catalog. Among all the 3FHL extragalactic sources, 72 have already been detected by IACTs.

The spectral index is plotted versus the frequency of the synchrotron-peak maximum in Figure 15. The trend of a strong hardening of the energy spectra with increasing peak frequency

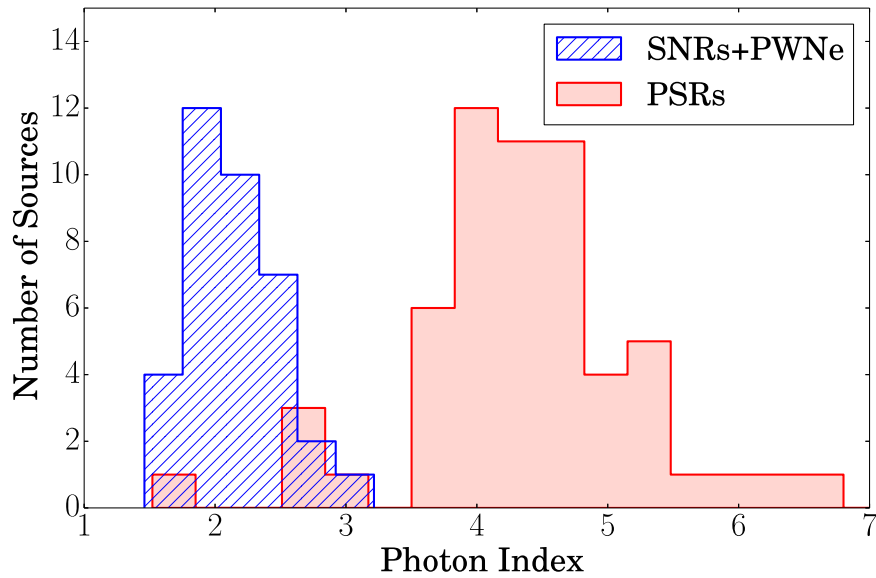


Figure 12. Distributions of γ -ray spectral indices of SNRs plus PWNe (dashed blue) and sources associated with PSRs (filled red). At the 3FHL energies, SNRs and PWNe tend to have smaller indices (harder spectra) than PSRs, for which the LAT measurement is sensitive to the exponential cutoff.

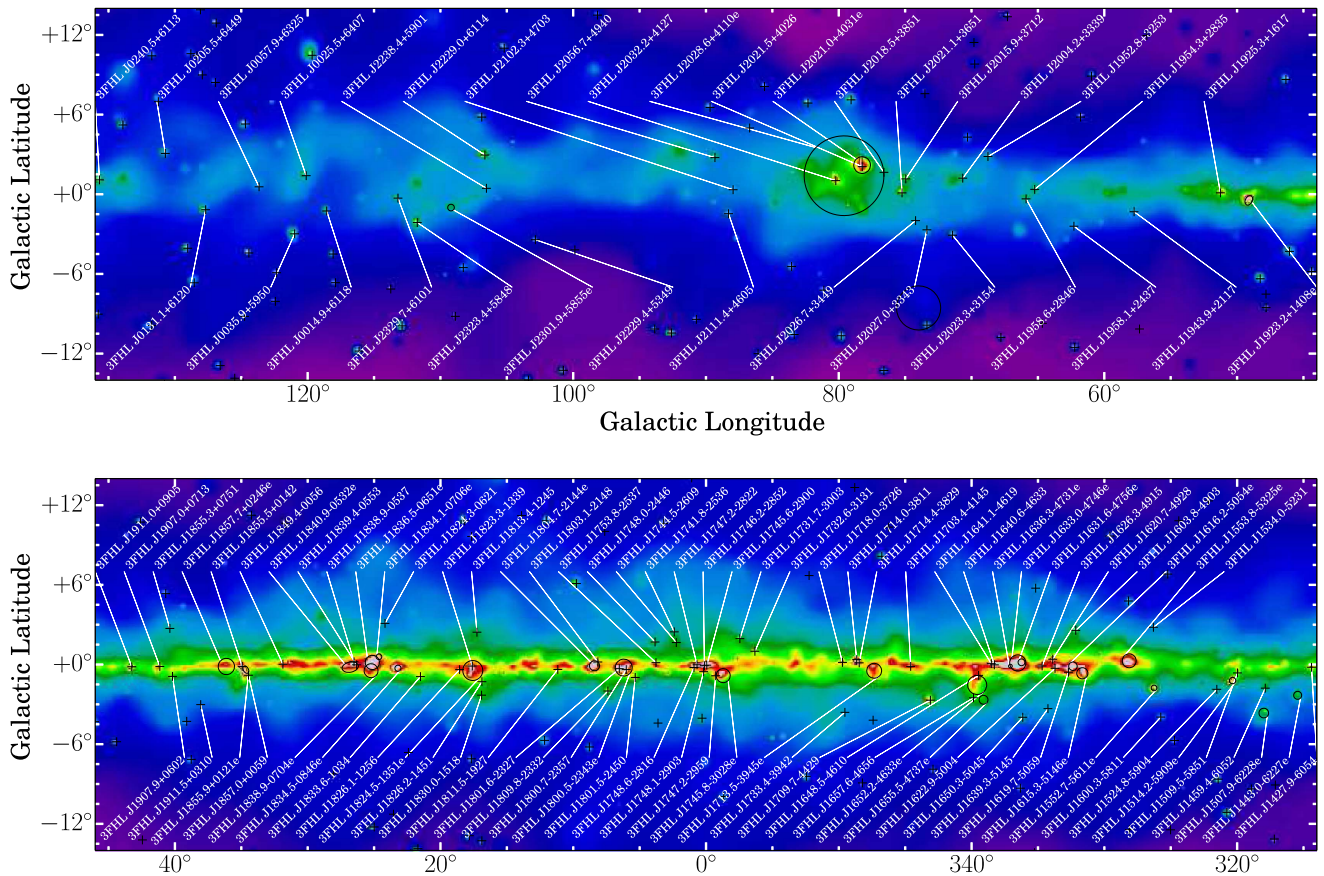


Figure 13. Adaptively smoothed counts map showing the whole Galactic plane $0^\circ \leq l \leq 360^\circ$ at Galactic latitudes $-14^\circ \leq b \leq 14^\circ$, divided into four panels. The panels are centered at $l = 90^\circ, 0^\circ, 270^\circ,$ and 180° , from top to bottom. Detected point sources are marked with a cross, whereas extended sources are indicated with their extensions. Only sources located at $-4^\circ \leq b \leq 4^\circ$ are labeled, plus the Crab Nebula.

already seen above 100 MeV in the *Fermi*-LAT AGN catalogs (e.g., Ackermann et al. 2015) is even more pronounced above 10 GeV. This enhanced effect relative to 3LAC is due to the larger EBL attenuation suffered by high-redshift sources (most

of them being LSPs) in comparison with the lower-redshift ones (preferentially HSPs; see more details on EBL attenuation below). In Figure 15, we note one FSRQ that has a hard spectrum ($\Gamma = 1.65 \pm 0.36$) and low luminosity. This blazar

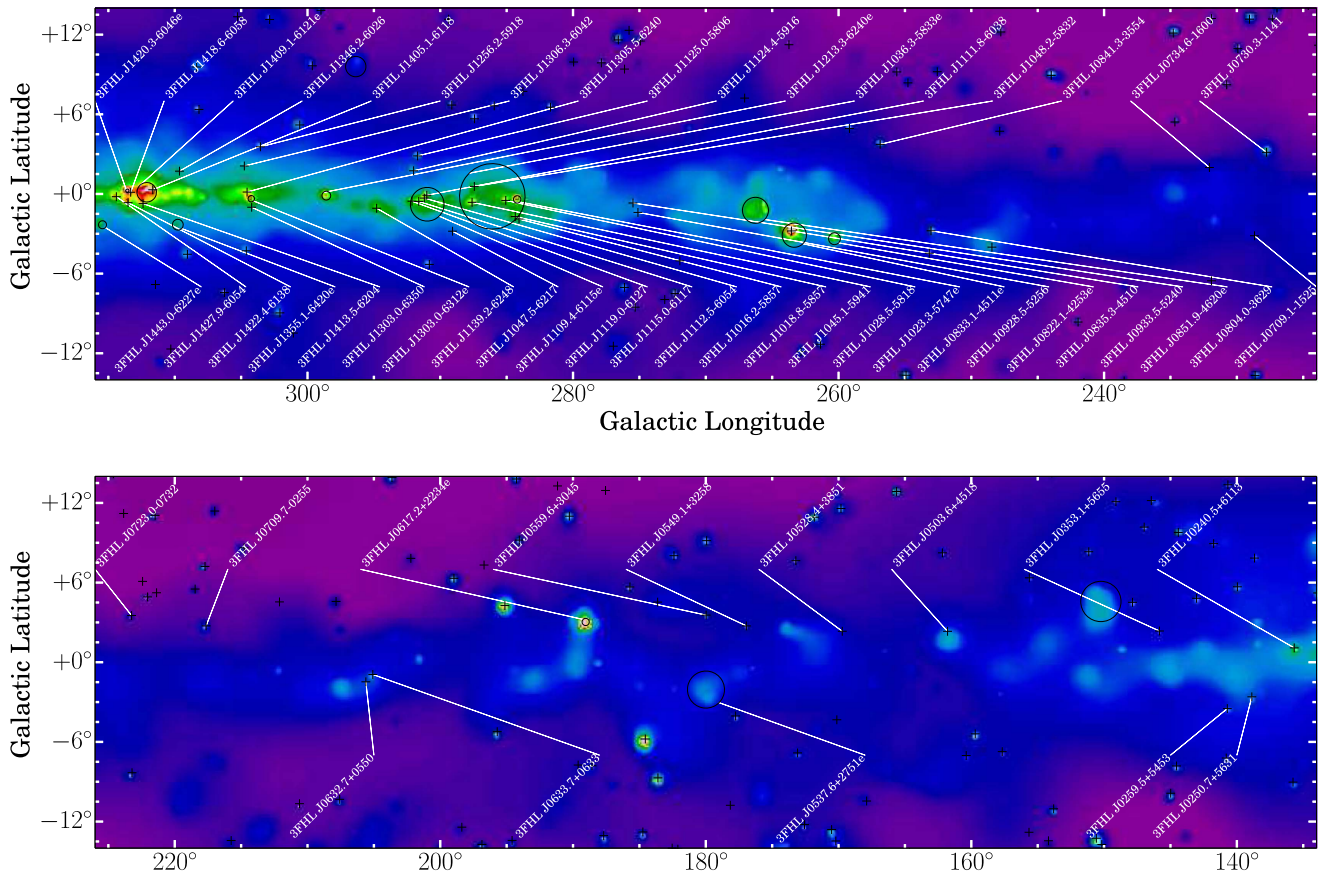


Figure 13. (Continued.)

(3FHL J0845.8–5551), which should be studied further in a future work, is associated with PMN J0845–5555.

Redshifts have been measured for 548 of the sources (45% of the extragalactic sample). The median of the redshift distribution is $z \sim 0.4$, but the distribution extends to $z \sim 2.5$. As is well known, BL Lacs typically have lower redshifts (median $z \sim 0.3$) than FSRQs (median $z \sim 1$, Ackermann et al. 2015). BCUs generally have low redshifts (median $z \sim 0.1$). There are 109 blazars at $z > 1$ (82 FSRQs, 31 BL Lacs, and 3 BCUs) and 16 at $z > 2$ (11 FSRQs, 4 BL Lacs, and 1 BCUs). We note that only 7 2FHL blazars have redshifts $z > 1$.

Photons with energies greater than about 30 GeV suffer from attenuation over cosmological distances as a consequence of the pair production interactions with extragalactic background light (EBL) photons (e.g., Franceschini et al. 2008; Helgason & Kashlinsky 2012; Scully et al. 2014). This interaction results in a cosmic optical depth, τ , to γ -rays that may be quantified by the cosmic γ -ray horizon (CGRH, defined as the energy at which $\tau = 1$ as a function of redshift, Abdo et al. 2010; Domínguez et al. 2013) and carries cosmological information (Domínguez & Prada 2013; Biteau & Williams 2015).⁷⁴ Figure 16 shows a clear softening of the spectral index above 10 GeV with increasing redshift, which is likely due to EBL attenuation. This softening was already evident among 1FHL sources. As Figure 14 illustrated, different mixes of AGN populations dominate each LAT catalog. This fact could

introduce some bias in the inferred index evolution; however, we also show in Figure 16 that the difference between the 3FHL and 3FGL spectral indexes (i.e., $\Delta\Gamma = \Gamma^{3\text{FHL}} - \Gamma^{3\text{FGL}}$) evolves similarly with redshift for the BL Lac as well as FSRQ populations (see also Domínguez & Ajello 2015).

Photons from sources that suffer strong attenuation ($\tau > 1$), such as those from 3FHL J0543.9–5532 (1RXS J054357.3–553206, $z = 0.273$, $\text{HEP}_{\text{Energy}} = 1341$ GeV, $N_{\text{pred}} = 96$ photons above 10 GeV, $\text{HEP}_{\text{Prob}} = 0.95$), 3FHL J0808.2–0751 (PKS 0805–07, $z = 1.837$, $\text{HEP}_{\text{Energy}} = 130$ GeV, $N_{\text{pred}} = 80$, $\text{HEP}_{\text{Prob}} = 0.99$), and 3FHL J1016.0+0512 (TXS 1013+054, $z = 1.714$, $\text{HEP}_{\text{Energy}} = 179$ GeV, $N_{\text{pred}} = 31$, $\text{HEP}_{\text{Prob}} = 0.86$), can be powerful probes of the EBL. These photons permit testing EBL models and evaluating potential changes in the optical depth due to other more exotic scenarios (e.g., de Angelis et al. 2007; Sánchez-Conde et al. 2009; Essey & Kusenko 2010; Domínguez et al. 2011b; Horns & Meyer 2012). Figure 17 shows the HEPs from each source versus redshift together with estimates of the CGRH from EBL models (Finke et al. 2010; Domínguez et al. 2011a; Gilmore et al. 2012). This figure illustrates that the *Fermi*-LAT data explore the region around and beyond the horizon ($\tau = 1$).

3.7. Flux Variability

In this section, we present results on source flux variability following a similar methodology as used for previous hard-source LAT catalogs. Our analysis is based on a Bayesian Block algorithm that detects and characterizes variability in a

⁷⁴ Note that the CGRH is different from the cosmological particle horizon, the distance beyond which information cannot reach the observer.

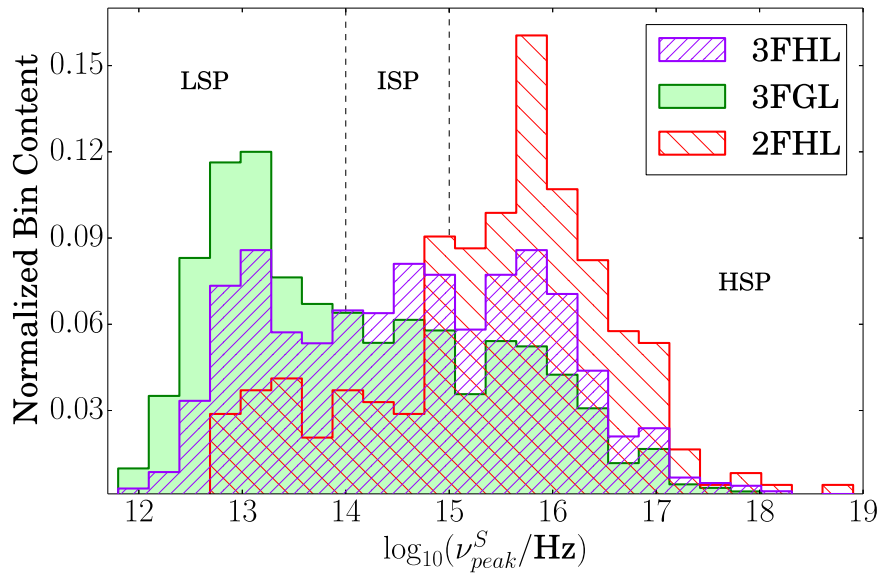


Figure 14. Normalized distributions of the frequency of the synchrotron peak for the blazars detected in the 3FGL (0.1–300 GeV), 2FHL (50 GeV–2 TeV), and 3FHL (10 GeV–2 TeV) catalogs.

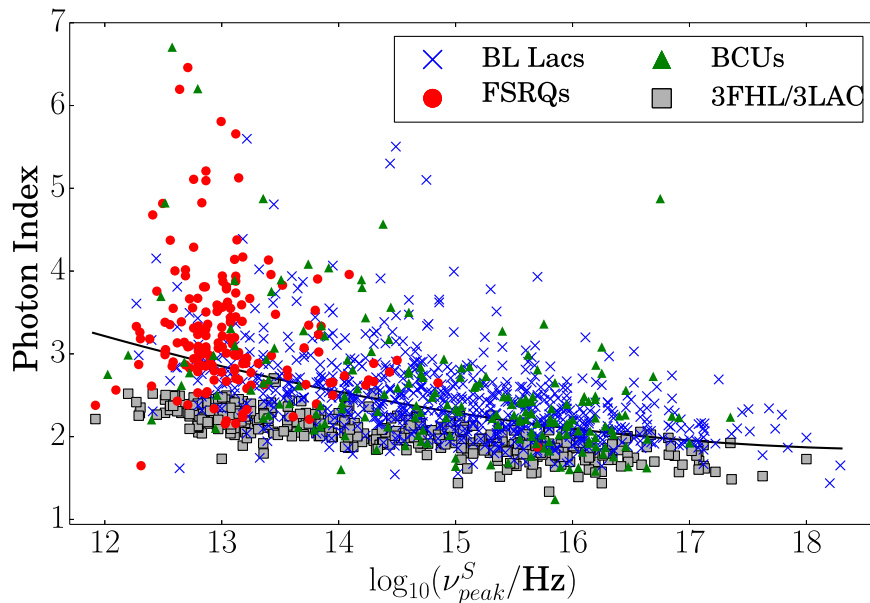


Figure 15. Photon spectral index vs. position of the synchrotron peak for the 3FHL blazars (BL Lacs are blue crosses, FSRQs are red circles, and BCUs are green triangles). The best-fitting second-order polynomial to the 3FHL data is shown with a black line ($\chi^2/\text{dof} = 1274/1041$, whereas $\chi^2/\text{dof} = 2700/1043$ for a constant line). The 3LAC data (gray squares, Ackermann et al. 2015) of the blazars that are also found in the 3FHL are shown for comparison.

time series. In particular, this analysis can be applied to low-count data (Scargle 1998; Scargle et al. 2013). The algorithm divides events from a source into blocks (i.e., segments of constant rate) described by a flux and duration. The transition between blocks is determined by optimizing a fitness function (using the algorithm of Jackson et al. 2005), which in our case is the logarithm of the likelihood for each individual block under the hypothesis of a constant local flux (Scargle et al. 2013). We select a threshold of 1% false positive for all sources. Therefore, for a catalog of 1556 sources, we expect about 16 false detections. As was done in the 1FHL and 2FHL, we extract the events using an RoI of 0.25° radius centered on the

maximum likelihood source coordinates. For 3FHL sources separated by less than 1° , the radius of the RoI was decreased to the greater of (half the angular separation) or 0.25° . In addition to the Bayesian Block analysis (which accounts for exposure time), we also performed an aperture photometry analysis for each source using 50 equal time bins spanning the whole 3FHL time interval. No background subtraction was done for the aperture photometry and Bayesian Block analyses. Thirty-one pairs of sources are closer than 0.5° , and eight of those are outside the Galactic plane ($|b| \geq 10^\circ$). Of those eight pairs, two pairs show evidence for variability. The variability of the source 3FHL J1443.5+2515 (NVSS J144334+251559)

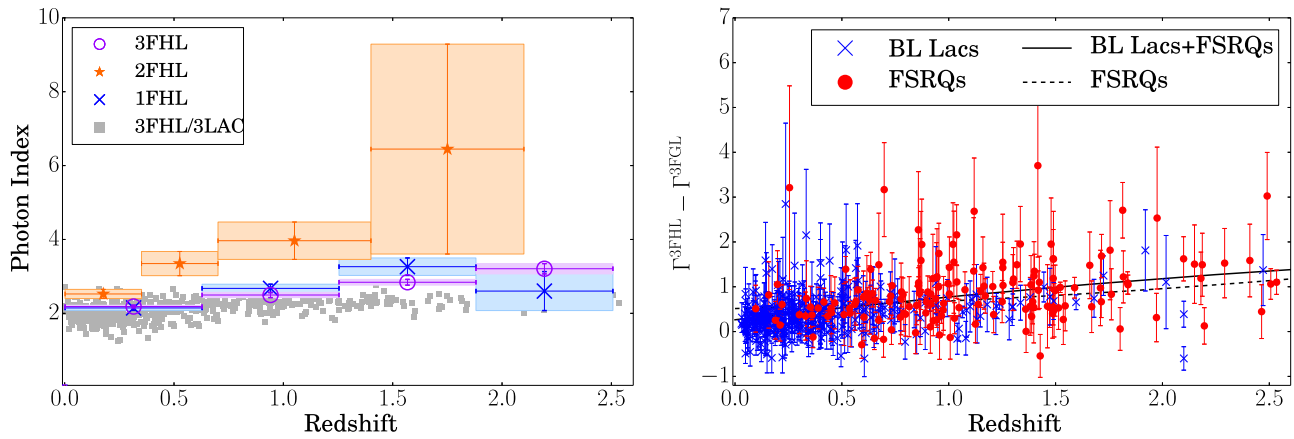


Figure 16. (Left panel): observed spectral index vs. redshift of the 3LAC sources (energy range, 0.1–100 GeV, gray circles), the median spectral index in some redshift bins of the 1FHL sources (10–500 GeV, blue crosses), 2FHL sources (50–2000 GeV, orange stars), and 3FHL sources (10–2000 GeV, magenta circles). The uncertainties are calculated as the 68% containment around the median. The spectral index is seen to depend on the redshift at the energies where the EBL attenuation is significant. (Right panel): the difference between the 3FHL and 3FGL spectral indexes ($\Delta\Gamma = \Gamma^{3\text{FHL}} - \Gamma^{3\text{FGL}}$) over redshift for the BL Lac (blue crosses) and FSRQ (red circles) populations. The $\Delta\Gamma$ for both population types evolves similarly with redshift.

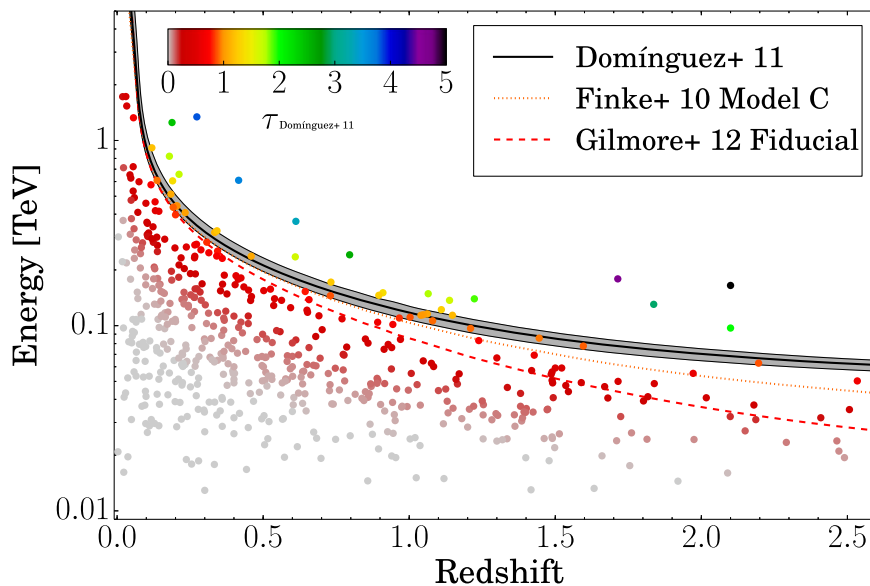


Figure 17. Highest-energy photons vs. redshift for 3FHL-associated blazars, color-coded by the optical depth, τ , calculated from the model presented by Domínguez et al. (2011a). The cosmic γ -ray horizon (energy for which $\tau = 1$ as a function of redshift) from the Domínguez et al. (2011a), Finke et al. (2010), and Gilmore et al. (2012) EBL models are shown with the solid black line, dotted orange line, and dashed red line, respectively. Several of the highest-energy LAT photons from these distant blazars are in the region around and beyond $\tau = 1$.

cannot be determined independently of the variable source 3FHL J1443.9+2502 (PKS 1441+25) and is flagged accordingly in the catalog. In the other case, 3FHL J1848.5+3217/3FHL J1848.5+3243, only the first object is variable (3 blocks) and it is associated with 3FGL J1848.4+3216, which was identified with the blazar B2 1846+32A in the 3FGL via correlated multi-wavelength variability. The time of the flare found in the 3FHL Bayesian Blocks analysis matches that of the flare found in the 3FGL analysis (MJD 55500). The second source in the pair is not detected in the 3FGL.

There are 163 sources that are variable (characterized by two or more blocks) at more than 99% C.L. in the 3FHL catalog. This $\sim 10\%$ fraction is compatible with the fraction of variable sources found in 1FHL. We also note that 338 3FHL sources were found to be variable in 3FGL. The mean number of

detected photons for the subsample of variable sources is 107, whereas for the full catalog it is 48. Naturally, the lower number of photons at higher energies decreases the analysis sensitivity to variability. In the 7-year interval that we analyze, 82 sources have 2 blocks, 50 have 3 blocks, 15 have 4 blocks, and 16 have 5 or more blocks. These highly variable sources with 5 or more blocks (including 7 BL Lacs and 9 FSRQs) are associated with B0218+357, PKS 0426–380, PKS 0454–234, PMN J0531–4827, PKS 0537–441, S5 0716+71, Mkn 421, 4C +21.35, 3C 279, PKS B1424–418, PKS 1510–08, TXS 1530–131, RX J1754.1+3212, S4 1849+67, BL Lacertae, and 3C 454.3.

All but two of the variable sources are associated with extragalactic sources. Some other examples of well-known sources that are significantly variable include the local blazars

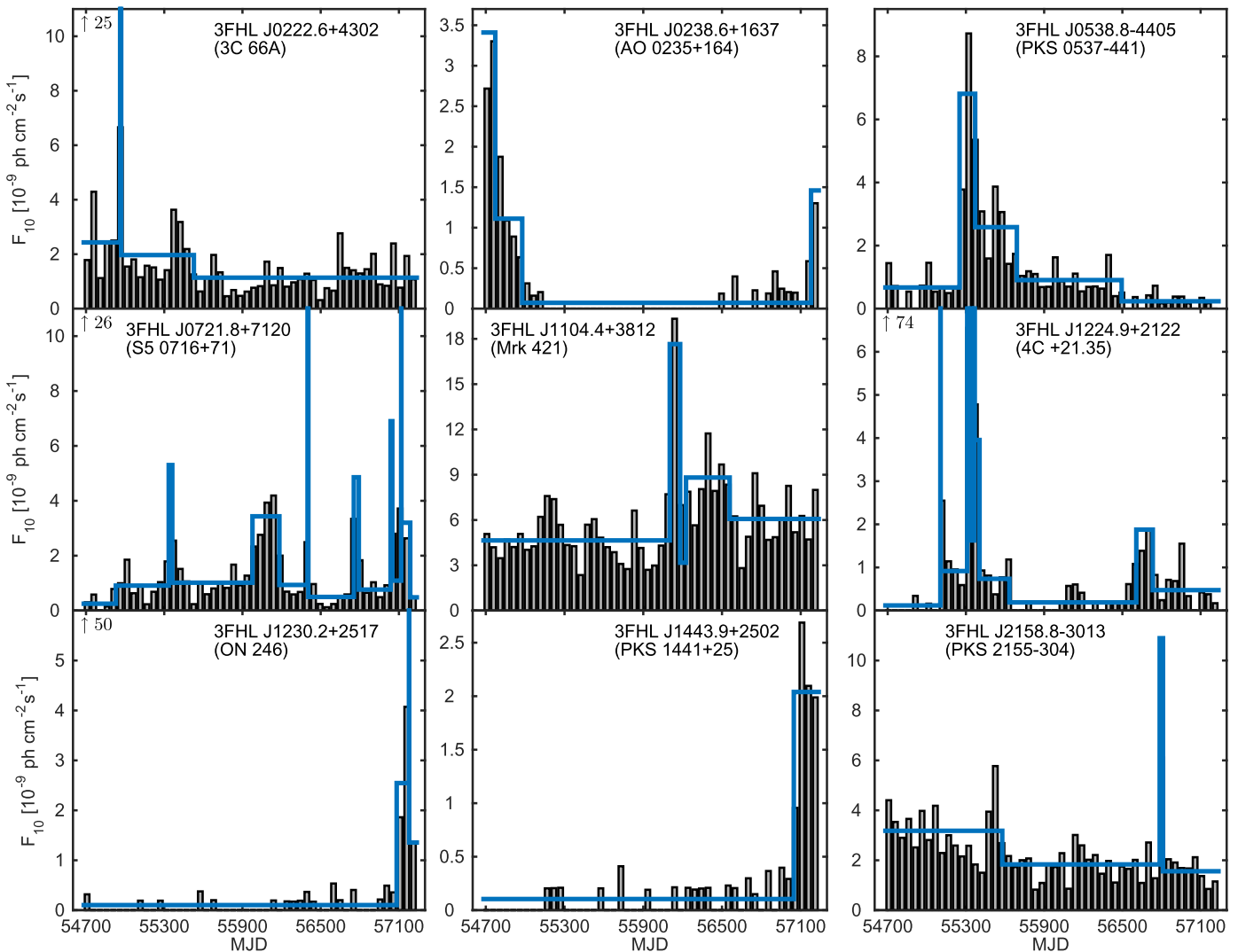


Figure 18. Light curves for nine interesting variable sources, which are described in detail in the text. The histograms are from aperture photometry using 50 equal time bins and the solid lines correspond to the Bayesian Block temporal analysis using a 1% false positive threshold. The y-axis is truncated for four sources, as the flux estimated by the Bayesian Block analysis was much larger due to the short durations of some flares. An upward-pointing arrow in the top left corner indicates the flux of the brightest flare as estimated by the Bayesian Block analysis. The panels are labeled with the 3FHL names and their corresponding associated sources.

Mkn 180 and Mkn 501, and the radio galaxy IC 310. One unassociated source, 3FHL J0540.2+0654, is variable (not found variable in 3FGL, located at $b = -12^\circ.42$ and therefore probably extragalactic). One Galactic source is also found to be variable: the extended source 3FHL J1514.2-5909e classified as spp (see Table 2 for definition). In principle we would not expect an extended source to be variable. Closer study will be needed to understand the origin of its apparent variability. Other interesting cases include the variable source 3FHL J2017.3+0603, which might be associated with the FSRQ GB6 B2014+0553 instead of the adopted association with the pulsar PSR J2017+0603 (not found variable in the 3FGL).

Figure 18 shows the results from the Bayesian Block analysis for nine representative variable sources.

1. 3FHL J0222.6+4302 (3C 66A). We note that one of the flares detected in 1FHL is not picked up in 3FHL. The blazar has been in a quiescent state since the 1FHL time period.

2. 3FHL J0238.6+1637 (AO 0235+164). There is a sign of activity near the end of the 3FHL time window.
3. 3FHL J0538.8-4405 (PKS 0537-441). The flux decreased after the 3 year interval analyzed for 1FHL.
4. 3FHL J0721.8+7120 (S5 0716+71). This blazar had two blocks in 1FHL. Now, it is the most variable source in 3FHL, with 15 blocks.
5. 3FHL J1104.4+3812 (Mrk 421). This classical TeV source showed a large activity in mid-2012 (Hovatta et al. 2015; Baloković et al. 2016), where its flux above 10 GeV increased by about factor of four.
6. 3FHL J1224.9+2122 (4C +21.35). This source is highly variable with 13 blocks. But its variability decreased substantially after the first three years considered in the 1FHL.
7. 3FHL J1230.2+2517 (ON 246). Two flares detected by the LAT, on 2015 January 22, MJD 57044 (Cutini & Gasparrini 2015) and 2015 June 6, MJD 57179 (Becerra 2015), are clearly seen in the Bayesian Block curves.

8. 3FHL J1443.9+2502 (PKS 1441+25). This source has the second highest redshift among all sources detected so far by IACTs ($z = 0.939$, Abeysekera et al. 2015; Ahnen et al. 2015).
9. 3FHL J2158.8-3013 (PKS 2155-304). This well-known TeV source shows a large flare on 2014 May 17, MJD 56794 (Cutini 2014).

We find that 11% of sources associated with BL Lacs and 36% of those associated with FSRQs are flagged as variable. However, the mean number of photons per source for BL Lacs is similar to that of FSRQs. This suggests the interpretation that FSRQs are intrinsically more variable than BL Lacs. The fraction of variable sources is also found to change with the SED class. It decreases from 23% (83/360) to 11% (27/256) and 10% (44/433) for LSPs, ISPs, and HSPs, respectively, confirming the trends seen in 1FHL and 3LAC. If the analysis is restricted to BL Lacs only, the trend is weaker than what was reported in 3LAC. This may be due to BL Lac LSPs having fewer high-energy photons relative to lower-energy photons than HSPs while being intrinsically more variable in the overall LAT energy range (as shown in 3LAC).

4. Summary

We have analyzed the first 7 years of *Fermi*-LAT data using Pass 8 events. Pass 8 improves the photon acceptance and the PSF, reduces the background of misclassified charged particles and extends the useful LAT energy range. Our search for sources above 10 GeV resulted in the 3FHL catalog, which contains 1556 sources characterized up to 2 TeV. This analysis represents a positionally unbiased census of the whole sky at a sensitivity three times better than the previous LAT analysis at the same energies (the 1FHL catalog). This improvement in sensitivity results in the detection of three times more sources.

Most of the 3FHL sources ($\gtrsim 79\%$) are associated with extragalactic counterparts. BL Lacs are the most numerous extragalactic population (61%), followed by blazars of uncertain type (23%) and FSRQs (14%).

We find 321 sources at $|b| < 10^\circ$, of which 105 are associated with Galactic-type sources, 133 are extragalactic, and 83 are unassociated (or associated with sources of unknown nature). There are 20 sources with Galactic associations located at high Galactic latitudes ($|b| \geq 10^\circ$). About the same number of Galactic sources are associated with PWNe and SNRs as with PSRs. Extragalactic sources generally have smaller photon indices than Galactic ones (median of ~ 2 versus ~ 3). The unassociated sources tend to have similar indices as blazars, SNRs, and PWNe, but not PSRs. Of the unassociated sources, 60% are located at $|b| \geq 10^\circ$ and are likely extragalactic.

The 3FHL catalog contains more than 4 times the number of sources detected in the 2FHL (above 50 GeV). We estimate that, down to an energy flux of 10^{-12} erg s $^{-1}$ cm $^{-2}$, there are twice as many sources at 10 GeV than at 50 GeV. This demonstrates quantitatively the importance of lowering as much as possible the energy threshold of future IACTs.

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Facility: *Fermi*/LAT.

Appendix Background Parameters

In 3FGL we left three degrees of freedom to the diffuse emission in each RoI. Those were the normalizations of the isotropic and Galactic components, and a spectral index Γ that can make the Galactic component a little harder or softer after it is multiplied by $(E/E_0)^\Gamma$. In 3FHL the energy range and statistics are not enough to reliably constrain those three parameters. We first tried with all three free (setting E_0 to 20 GeV), but this resulted in large fractional errors (comparable to 1) outside the Galactic plane. In several RoIs one normalization went very close to 0, resulting in too-small error estimates on all parameters (including sources). On the other hand, because the PSF is relatively narrow above 10 GeV the effect of background modeling on point sources was much less than that over the full LAT energy range, so having a very accurate background model was not as critical.

In order to reach a robust description of the background, we adopted the following procedure. In the Galactic plane ($|b| < 10^\circ$) the Galactic parameters were decently measured so we could estimate their averages as $\text{norm} = 1.1$ and $\Gamma = 0.03$ (the model was a little too faint and too soft). Then, we fixed those parameters to those averages and fitted only the isotropic norm. This resulted in an average value of 0.92 outside the plane (model a little too bright). We checked that fixing the isotropic to 0.92 (or to 1) had little effect on the Galactic parameters in the plane. We adopted those values as defaults for the three parameters.

In the final run we left free only one normalization, corresponding to the majority component according to the default parameter values. The other normalization was fixed to its default. The spectral index was always left fixed to 0.03 because there was no evidence that it was significantly variable along the plane. This resulted in the parameter values illustrated in Figure 19, which are indeed consistent with the default values on average, and have errors small enough to remain far from 0. Among 741 RoIs, 390 had isotropic normalization free, and 351 had Galactic normalization free.

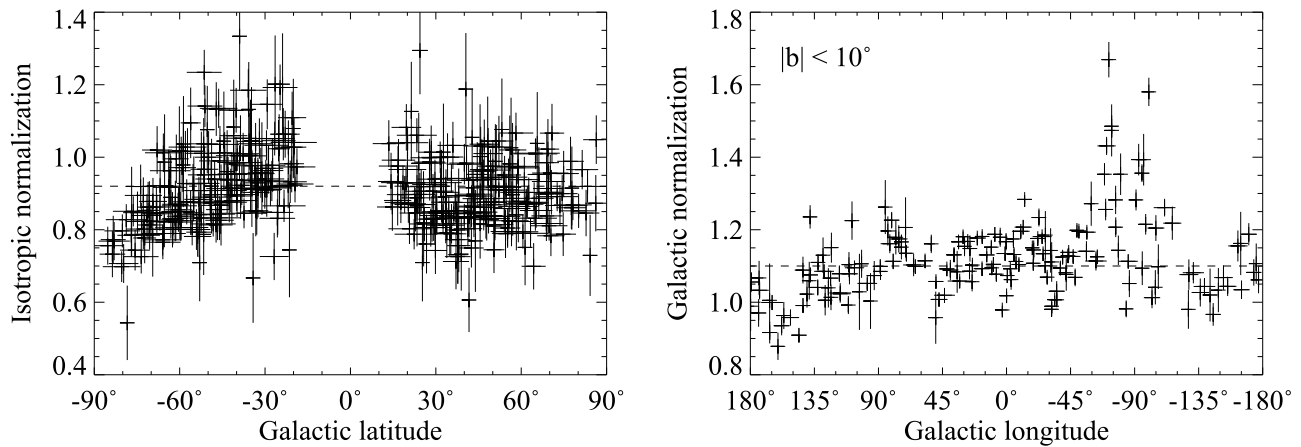


Figure 19. Best-fit value of the free diffuse parameter. (Left panel): isotropic normalization as a function of Galactic latitude. (Right panel): galactic normalization (at 20 GeV) within 10° of the plane as a function of Galactic longitude. The dashed lines (at 0.92 and 1.1, respectively) show what the parameter was fixed to when that component was the minority.

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