

# Disentangling the nature of the prototype radio weak BL Lac

## Contemporaneous multifrequency observations of WISE J141046.00+740511.2

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### ABSTRACT

**Context.** The  $\gamma$ -ray emitting source WISE J141046.00+740511.2 has been associated with a *Fermi*-LAT detection by crossmatching with *Swift*/XRT data. It has shown all the canonical observational characteristics of a BL Lac source, including a power-law, featureless optical spectrum. However, it was only recently detected at radio frequencies and its radio flux is significantly low.

**Aims.** Given that a radio detection is fundamental to associate lower-energy counterparts to *Fermi*-LAT sources, we aim to unambiguously classify this source by performing a multiwavelength analysis based on contemporaneous data.

**Methods.** By using multifrequency observations at the *Jansky* Very Large Array, Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope, Gran Telescopio Canarias, Gemini, *William Herschel* Telescope and Liverpool observatories, together with *Fermi*-LAT and *Swift* data, we carried out two kinds of analyses. On one hand, we studied several known parameters that account for the radio loudness or weakness characterization and their application to blazars (in general) and to our source (in particular). And, on the other hand, we built and analyzed the observed spectral energy distribution (SED) of this source to try to explain its peculiar characteristics.

**Results.** The multiwavelength analysis indicates that WISE J141046.00+740511.2 is a blazar of the high-frequency peaked (HBL) type that emits highly polarized light and that is likely located at a low redshift. In addition, the one-zone model parameters that best fit its SED are those of an extreme HBL (EHBL); this blazar type has been extensively predicted in theory to be lacking in the radio emission that is otherwise typical of canonical  $\gamma$ -ray blazars.

**Conclusions.** We confirm that WISE J141046.00+740511.2 is indeed a highly polarized BL Lac of the HBL type. Further studies will be conducted to explain the atypical low radio flux detected for this source.

**Key words.** galaxies: active – galaxies: nuclei – galaxies: jets – BL Lacertae objects: general – X-rays: galaxies – gamma rays: galaxies

## 1. Introduction

Blazars are considered a sub-type of active galactic nuclei (AGN), whose relativistic jets are closely aligned to the line of sight (Blandford et al. 1978; Lister et al. 2013). Their spectra are dominated by non-thermal emission over the whole electromagnetic range, namely, they can be detected at all radio frequencies (see, e.g., Brown et al. 1989; Giroletti et al. 2016; Lister et al.

2019), infrared (e.g., Impey & Neugebauer 1988; Massaro et al. 2011a; D’Abrusco et al. 2019), optical (e.g., Carini et al. 1992; Marchesini et al. 2016; Álvarez Crespo et al. 2016; Paiano et al. 2020), X-ray bands (e.g., Singh & Garmire 1985; Giommi et al. 1990; Sambruna et al. 1996; Paggi et al. 2013; Marchesini et al. 2019a), and  $\gamma$ -ray band (e.g., Hartman et al. 1999; Abdo et al. 2010b; Ackermann et al. 2015; Ajello et al. 2020). According to their optical spectra, Stickle et al. (1991) classified blazars

into two main categories. Broad optical emission lines, when present in their spectra, indicate they are categorized as flat-spectrum radio quasars (FSRQs), while sources that present weak or absent emission lines are considered as BL Lac objects (see also Urry & Padovani 1995). The spectral energy distributions (SEDs) of blazars exhibit two broad bumps, one at low energies and the other at higher ones. The low-energy bump is located between the infrared and X-rays bands and it is attributed to synchrotron emission arising from accelerated electrons in the blazar jet (Maraschi et al. 1992; Tramacere et al. 2007b; Potter & Cotter 2012). The high-energy bump can be found between the hard X-rays and the  $\gamma$ -ray band, and its nature is still under debate: in leptonic models, it is attributed to the inverse Compton (IC) scattering of synchrotron photons (synchrotron-self Compton, SSC) or external photon fields (EC), such as those emitted in the Broad-Line region or in the accretion disk (e.g., Ghisellini et al. 1985; Tramacere et al. 2007b; Paggi et al. 2009). In lepto-hadronic models, synchrotron radiation by protons and hadronic processes can also contribute to the high-energy component observed in blazars (Aharonian 2000; Mücke & Protheroe 2001; Atoyan & Dermer 2003; Böttcher et al. 2013).

In  $\gamma$ -rays, in particular, blazars are the dominant species of detected sources (Aharonian et al. 2005; Abdo et al. 2010b; Arsioli et al. 2020), having been also detected at extreme  $\gamma$ -ray energies (i.e., TeV energies, see for example Wakely & Horan 2008). They are also known for undergoing high-energy flaring states (e.g., Hartman et al. 2001; Kaur et al. 2017; Bruni et al. 2018). In the Fourth Catalog of the *Fermi* Large Area Telescope (4FLG, *Fermi*-LAT, Abdollahi et al. 2020), the collaboration lists 3130 blazars out of a total of 5064 sources ( $\sim 62\%$ ) detected above a  $4\sigma$  significance level. It is expected that a number of the 1336 *Fermi*-LAT objects still without any known lower-energy counterpart also belong to the blazar class (Acero et al. 2015). Blazars are also known for being X-ray emitters as well (Falcone et al. 2014; Chang et al. 2017).

Different methods are currently available to look for blazar-like counterparts of  $\gamma$ -ray unidentified sources, which can later be confirmed as the true counterparts through their optical spectra (see, e.g., Masetti et al. 2013; Marchesini et al. 2016, 2019b; Peña-Herazo et al. 2017). For example,  $\gamma$ -ray blazars populate a specific region in the color-color diagram at mid-infrared wavelengths (see e.g., Massaro et al. 2012; D’Abrusco et al. 2013). In addition, *Fermi*-LAT blazars are classified with a multiwavelength approach. In particular, radio detection has been successfully used to identify blazars: in BZCAT (Massaro et al. 2015b), all sources that were identified as blazars were also detected in radio frequencies, regardless of their high-energy detection status. This includes all blazars detected by *Fermi*-LAT, which has been the basis of the  $\gamma$ -ray to radio connection in these sources (Mahony et al. 2010; Ackermann et al. 2011; Lico et al. 2017).

It was recently established that *Fermi* BL Lacs are also X-ray emitters (Marchesini et al. 2019a). This has led to the selection of a sample of X-ray emitting blazar-like counterparts of *Fermi* unidentified sources displaying multiwavelength features similar to canonical blazars (Marchesini et al. 2020). Among this list of blazar-like counterpart candidates for *Fermi* sources, several of them do not show any known radio detection to date. Such is the case of the *Fermi* BL Lac object WISE J141046.00+740511.2. This source was first suggested as a putative counterpart to a *Fermi* detection by Landi et al. (2015), which was then first confirmed as the true counterpart with a BL Lac optical spectrum by Marchesini et al. (2016). The fact that, at the time, there were no

positionally-coincident radio detections led to its classification as the first radio weak BL Lac (RWBL, Massaro et al. 2017). Recently, Bruni et al. (2018) proposed new RWBL candidates, although the subject has been under debate (Cao et al. 2019).

The existence of these sources was suggested by Ghisellini et al. (1998). These authors discussed the possibility of having BL Lacs with such a low intrinsic power that, according to the blazar sequence (Fossati et al. 1998), their synchrotron component should peak at frequencies above  $10^{17}$  Hz, and the  $\gamma$ -ray component at TeV energies, thus burying the radio-band emission below present detection levels. Thus, they cannot be detected by large radio surveys, such as NVSS or SUMSS (Condon et al. 1998; Mauch et al. 2003). This implies that the best way to find these sources is through their X-ray and  $\gamma$ -ray emission. There are several blazars detected with their synchrotron emission peaking at 2–10 keV, or even as high as 100 keV during flaring states (Costamante et al. 2001; Bonnoli et al. 2015). Regarding the classification in low-frequency peaked BL Lacs (LBLs) or high-frequency peaked BL Lacs (HBLs), defined by Padovani & Giommi (1995), these sources are known as Extreme HBL (EHBLs)<sup>1</sup>. To date, however, none of the known EHBLs were radio-weak and detectable by *Fermi*-LAT at the same time (see, e.g., Bonnoli et al. 2015; MAGIC Collaboration 2019, and references therein).

Thanks to a plethora of multifrequency contemporaneous observations, we aim to investigate the observational properties of WISE J141046.00+740511.2 to confirm its nature, which could allow it to serve as the prototype of its class. The paper is organized as follows. In Sect. 2, we describe the observations and data reduction processes. In Sect. 3, we present our multifrequency analysis of WISE J141046.00+740511.2. In Sect. 4, we discuss various models for reproducing the data. We state our results and conclusions in Sect. 5.

## 2. Observations, data reduction, and results

We performed a multiwavelength observational follow-up campaign on WISE J141046.00+740511.2<sup>2</sup> between 2018 and 2019. A summary of the campaign is shown in Table 1, where we list the observatories used, the dates of each observation shift, the exposure time, and the observing band for each observation.

### 2.1. Radio observations

#### 2.1.1. Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope observations

The Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) observations were conducted during August 2018 in two different frequency bands centred at 1260 MHz and 607 MHz, considering the back-end non-polarimetric-configuration 400 MHz and 200 MHz bandwidths, respectively. The flux calibrator source, 3C 286, was observed at the beginning of both runs for  $\sim 8$  min<sup>3</sup> at each frequency band, while the source 1407+284 was used as the phase calibrator and was observed for  $\sim 5$  m between the target scans of  $\sim 30$  m on WISE J141046.00+740511.2 (see Table 1 for details). The data were flagged and calibrated using “A flagging and calibration pipeline for GMRT data” (FLGCAL,

<sup>1</sup> The term EHBL is also used to refer to BL Lacs extreme in  $\gamma$ -rays, which show intrinsic hard spectrum up to TeV energies (Tavecchio et al. 2011).

<sup>2</sup> RA = 14h10m46s, Dec = 74d5m11.2s (J2000.0).

<sup>3</sup> All the exposure times reported for every source observed at radio frequencies are dwell times.

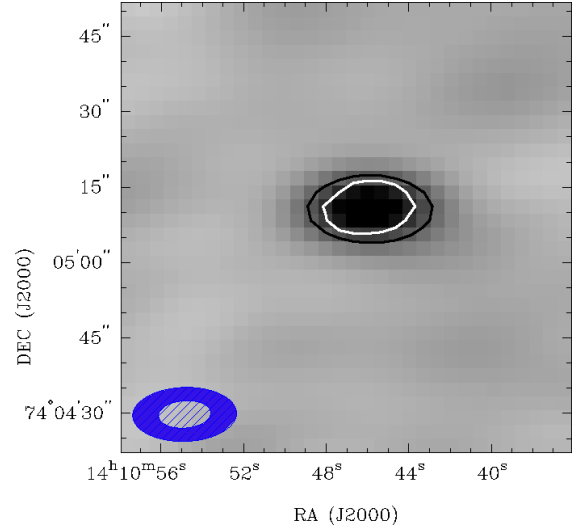
**Table 1.** Observing logs.

Observatory	Date	Exposure time [s]	Band
<b>Radio</b>			
GMRT	21-Aug.-2018	8520	<i>L</i> -band
	23-Aug.-2018	8400	610 MHz
JVLA	23-Nov.-2018	2400	<i>L</i> -band
	23-Nov.-2018	660	<i>S</i> -band
<b>Optical Spect.</b>			
GTC	13-Mar.-2019	3600	400–900 nm
Gemini	03-Apr.-2019	1200	450–1000 nm
<b>Optical Phot.</b>			
Liverpool	04-Feb.-2019	50	SDSS- <i>g'</i>
		150	SDSS- <i>r'</i>
		150	SDSS- <i>i'</i>
		30	SDSS- <i>G</i>
WHT	29-Apr.-2019	30	SDSS- <i>R</i>
		30	SDSS- <i>R</i>
		25	SDSS- <i>I</i>
<b>Ultraviolet</b>			
Swift/UVOT	2012–2014	11 700	<i>u</i> uvw1 uvm2 uvw2
<b>X-rays</b>			
Swift/XRT	2012–2014	11 700	0.5–10 keV

Prasad & Chengalur 2011), while the imaging process was carried out with the Common Astronomy Software Applications (CASA, CASA Team 2022). The images were produced considering a robust weighting of 0.5, and discarding baselines shorter than 2.1 km and 4.9 km, at 1.4 GHz and 610 MHz respectively. In addition, for further analysis and visualization imaging, we extensively used the MIRIAD software package (Sault et al. 1995) and KVIS, part of the KARMA package (Gooch 1996). Due to the vast presence of radio frequency interference (RFI) during the observations at the *L*-band (1.4 GHz), along with the presence of a strong radio source close to WISE J141046.00+740511.2, the required root mean square (rms) to detect the source in this band was not achieved. The synthesized beam and rms (at the center of the field) obtained at 610 MHz are  $7''.8 \times 3''.4$  and  $0.1 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$ . In this band, the source is a point source with a flux density of  $2.1 \pm 0.1 \text{ mJy}$ , which is in agreement with previous detections in the literature (Schinzel et al. 2017).

### 2.1.2. Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array observations

WISE J141046.00+740511.2 was observed in November 2018 with the Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array (JVLA) in C configuration. The observations were carried out at two different frequency bands, centred at 1420 MHz and 3000 MHz, using a configuration of 1 GHz and 2 GHz bandwidths, respectively. The flux calibrator source 3C286 was observed at the beginning of the run for  $\sim 3$  min at each frequency band. The source 1459+7140 was used as the phase calibrator and was observed for  $\sim 2$  min between the target scans; see Table 1 for details. The data were calibrated and the image was performed in the standard way using CASA. The images were built considering a robust weighting of 0.5. The synthesized beams are  $23''.85 \times 12''.63$  and  $10''.32 \times 5''.3$  with an rms attained at the field



**Fig. 1.** JVLA *L*-band map of WISE J141046.00+740511.2. The *L*-band (1.4 GHz) continuum image is overlaid with *L*-band (black) and *S*-band (3 GHz, white) contours. Contour levels are drawn at a  $3\sigma$  image noise level, where  $\sigma$  is  $0.3 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$  and  $\sigma$  is  $0.1 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$  in the *L* and *S* bands, respectively. The synthesized beams of *L* and *S* bands are shown at the bottom left corner of the image,  $23''.85 \times 12''.63$  and  $10''.32 \times 5''.3$ , respectively.

center of  $0.3 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$  and  $0.1 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$  at the frequencies of 1.4 and 3.0 GHz, respectively (see Fig. 1). The source is a point source with a flux density of  $2.33 \pm 0.65 \text{ mJy}$  at 1420 MHz, and  $2.36 \pm 0.60 \text{ mJy}$  at 3000 MHz.

## 2.2. Optical observations

### 2.2.1. GTC observations

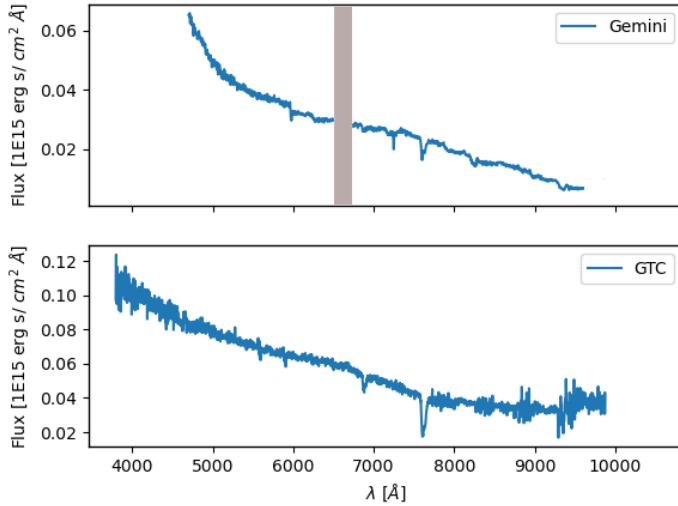
We acquired a long-slit optical spectrum with the OSIRIS spectrograph at Gran Telescopio de Canarias (GTC). Observations were carried out using queue mode on March 13, 2019 at 05:30 UT time. We used the R300B grism in the spectral range of 400–900 nm, with a dispersion of  $0.496 \text{ nm pix}^{-1}$ . We acquired three observations, with a exposure time of 1200 s each.

We reduced the spectroscopic data using standard procedures with the IRAF<sup>4</sup> package (Tody 1986). We performed bias subtraction and flat-field correction using dome flats. We also removed cosmic rays using L.A. Cosmic IRAF algorithm (van Dokkum 2001). We used HgAr Arc lamps for the wavelength calibration. We show the reduced spectrum in Fig. 2. No spectral features are apparent in the resulting spectrum.

### 2.2.2. Gemini-N observations

The object WISE J141046.00+740511.2 was observed with the GMOS (Hook et al. 2004) instrument of Gemini North Telescope on April 4th 2019 (GN-2019A-Q-116; PI: E. Marchesini). The instrument was set up in longslit mode, with a slit of 1 arcsec width. We chose the R150-G5308 grating, which yields a dispersion of  $0.174 \text{ nm per pixel}$ . This grating was used with the aim of obtaining the largest available spectral coverage in the optical band. The data were obtained in two separate exposures of 600 s each, centered on two different wavelengths (520 nm and 545 nm) to correct for the gaps in the GMOS detector.

<sup>4</sup> Image Reduction and Analysis Facility.



**Fig. 2.** Optical spectra of WISEJ141046.00+740511.2. *Top panel:* spectrum taken with Gemini GMOS-N. *Bottom:* spectrum taken with GTC-OSIRIS. In both cases, all absorption features are either due to atmospheric absorption (telluric lines), or instrumental artifacts (such as the CCD gap in the GMOS-N data).

The reduction procedure included the usual steps of bias subtraction, flat-field correction, wavelength calibration, sky subtraction, and cosmic ray rejection by using the GEMINI.GMOS package reduction tasks (v1.14) within IRAF (v2.16). The resulting spectrum covers from 450 nm to 1000 nm. No emission lines were detected, reinforcing the classification of this source as a blazar.

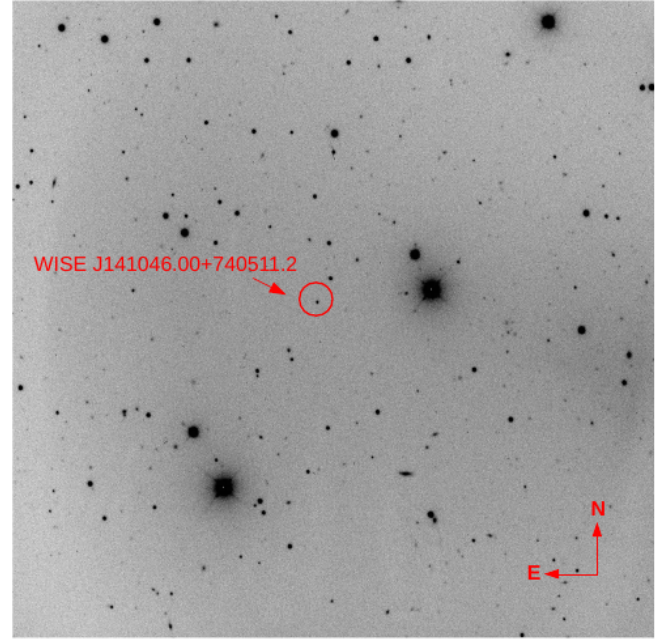
### 2.2.3. Liverpool Telescope observations

WISE J141046.00+740511.2 was observed with the IO:O camera equipped with a e2V CCD 231-84, at the Liverpool Telescope<sup>5</sup>, Roque de los Muchachos Observatory, in La Palma, Canary Islands. The observation was made using the  $g'$ ,  $r'$  and  $i'$  Sloan filters system, with an exposure time of 50 s in the  $g'$  filter, and 150 s in the  $r'$  and  $i'$  filters; on February 4, 2019 (corresponding to the night of February 3). The image scale was  $0.3037 \text{ arcsec px}^{-1}$  with  $2 \times 2$  binning, and the seeing during the night was between 1.57 and 2.01 arcsec.

Standard procedures were applied to reduce the data, subtracting the bias and correcting for flat fields. Aperture photometry was performed using the `apphot` IRAF software routine. Since we obtained six images in  $g'$ , 5 in  $r'$ , and 11 in  $i'$ , we also performed differential photometry, searching for possible signs of variability at very short scales. We did not find any variability. We performed a flux calibration using a reference star in the same field from the Pan-STARRS1 catalog (Flewelling et al. 2020). The mean standard magnitude values for WISEJ141046.00+740511.2 were:  $m_{g'} = 19.977 \pm 0.053$ ,  $m_{r'} = 19.627 \pm 0.022$ , and  $m_{i'} = 19.357 \pm 0.026$ . Corresponding flux values are given in Table 2. As an example, we show an image in the  $g'$ -band built with these data in Fig. 3.

### 2.2.4. William Herschel Telescope observations

The target was also observed using the *William Herschel* Telescope (WHT), Roque de los Muchachos Observatory, in



**Fig. 3.** Image of the field of WISE J141046.00+740511.2 taken with the IO:O camera of the Liverpool Telescope. The image corresponds to the  $g'$  filter of the SLOAN filter system and the image size is  $10' \times 10'$ .

La Palma, Canary Islands. We used the Auxiliary-port Camera (ACAM<sup>6</sup>) at image mode, in the  $G$ ,  $R$  and  $I$  Sloan filter system on April 29, 2019. The exposure times were 30, 30, and 25 s in each filter, respectively. The data were reduced and the photometry performed using the same process described in Sect. 2.2.3. The magnitudes resulted in very similar values to the ones obtained from the Liverpool data ( $m_g = 19.832 \pm 0.017$ ,  $m_r = 19.649 \pm 0.016$ , and  $m_i = 19.58 \pm 0.047$ ). The corresponding flux values are shown in Table 2. We note that the filter systems used by both telescopes have small effective wavelength differences, which may explain the different (at the  $\sim 0.1$  mag level) magnitude values obtained.

We also used the Intermediate-dispersion Spectrograph and Imaging System (ISIS) in image mode to obtain linear polarization. The source was observed on 2019-04-29 with the  $V$  Johnson filter, and with half-wave plate angles of  $8^\circ$ ,  $30.5^\circ$ ,  $53^\circ$ , and  $75.5^\circ$ . The zero-polarization standard star used was BD+332642 (Turnshek et al. 1990).

For the reduction, we subtracted the bias and applied a flat-field correction using sky flats and masking the gaps on the CCD, produced by the vignetting of the instrument. We carried out aperture photometry for our source and the standard star. After subtracting the sky level, we obtained the fluxes for both filters and the four wave-plate angles positions. Using the equations given in Zapatero Osorio et al. (2005), we derived the linear optical polarization degree and its uncertainty in the  $V$ -band. After the zero-polarization correction, we obtained a value of  $P_V = 7.07 \pm 2.12\%$ . The level of uncertainty is due to the weakness of the source. Nonetheless, we note that WISEJ141046.00+740511.2 shows a polarization that is several degrees ( $>5$ ) higher than all the rest of the sources in the same field.

<sup>5</sup> <https://telescope.livjm.ac.uk/TelInst/Inst/I00/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ing.iac.es//Astronomy/instruments/acam/>

### 2.3. Swift observations

#### 2.3.1. Swift UltraViolet and Optical Telescope (UVOT)

WISE J141046.00+740511.2 was observed by *Swift* for a total of 11.7 kiloseconds (hereafter, “ks”), on different dates from 2012 to 2014. In particular, we found a total of 20 UVOT exposures on the source, in filters u, w1, m2, and w2.

We followed the basic standard procedures to reduce *Swift*/UVOT data with HEASOFT tools, as described by the UVOT Analysis Threads from the University of Leicester<sup>7</sup> and in previous analyses (see e.g., [Tramacere et al. 2007a](#); [Massaro et al. 2008](#); [Paggi et al. 2013](#); [Maselli et al. 2016](#)). In the following, we provide a brief overview.

We first merged together all the observations of the same filter with the `uvotimsum` task, as well as all their corresponding exposure maps. We then used the `uvotdetect` task on the merged images, using their merged exposure maps, to find all sources in the field with signal-to-noise ratios (S/N) greater than 3. We performed accurate photometry on WISE J141046.00+740511.2 with the `uvotsource` task, on a circular region with a 5 arcsec radius centered on the position returned by `uvotdetect`. The background extraction region was defined as an annulus centered on the same position, with a much larger area which does not include the source region nor any other detected sources. The obtained flux is shown in Table 2.

#### 2.3.2. Swift X-ray Telescope (XRT)

We followed the same *Swift*/XRT data reduction basic procedure as described in previous works (see e.g., [Massaro et al. 2011b](#), [2017](#); [Marchesini et al. 2019a](#), [2020](#)). Clean event files were obtained using the `XRTPIPELINE` task of the *Swift* X-ray Telescope Data Analysis Software package (XRTDAS, [Capalbi et al. 2005](#)). All time intervals exceeding 40 counts per second were excluded, as well as those during which the CCD temperature exceeded  $-50^{\circ}\text{C}$  in edge locations on the CCD ([D’Elia et al. 2013](#)). The total exposure time was of 11.7 ks. The source was detected with a countrate of  $(2.8 \pm 0.6)E-3$  cts  $s^{-1}$ , in the 0.5–10 keV band. The corresponding flux was obtained using PIMMS ([Mukai 1993](#)), assuming a power-law function with a Photon index of 2, and a galactic  $nH$  of 0.0225. The resulting flux is shown in Table 2.

#### 2.3.3. Catalog data: WISE and Fermi-LAT

We chose to add the mid-IR and  $\gamma$ -ray data available online<sup>8,9</sup> for completeness, since these bands were crucial in the classification of this source (see [Massaro et al. 2017](#)). The mid-IR data, from WISE ([Wright et al. 2010](#)), correspond to the 3.4, 4.6, 12, and 22  $\mu\text{m}$  bands, taken in 2010 (see Sect. 4). On the other hand, the  $\gamma$ -ray data were taken from the following *Fermi*-LAT catalogs: *Fermi* Large Area Telescope First Source Catalog (1FGL, [Abdo et al. 2010a](#)), First *Fermi*-LAT Catalog of Sources above 10 GeV (1FHL, [Ackermann et al. 2013](#)), LAT 4-yr Source Catalog (3FGL, [Acero et al. 2015](#)), Third *Fermi*-LAT Catalog of High-Energy Sources (3FHL, [Ajello et al. 2017](#)), and the aforementioned 4FGL ([Abdollahi et al. 2020](#)). These data correspond to the energy bands of 100 MeV–100 GeV (1FGL, 3FGL, and 4FGL), and of 10 GeV–30 GeV (1FHL, 3FHL).

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.swift.ac.uk/analysis/uvot/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://wise2.ipac.caltech.edu/docs/release/allwise/>

<sup>9</sup> [https://fermi.gsfc.nasa.gov/ssc/data/access/lat/10yr\\_catalog/](https://fermi.gsfc.nasa.gov/ssc/data/access/lat/10yr_catalog/)

## 3. Multifrequency properties of WISE J141046.00+740511.2

### 3.1. On the optical classification

Blazars of the BL Lac type are among the most elusive high-energy emitting objects to pinpoint ([Massaro et al. 2015a](#), [2016](#); [Peña-Herazo et al. 2020](#)). Their collimated jets, whose material is accelerated to relativistic velocities, point towards the line of sight. Thus, they suffer the effect of relativistic Doppler boosting, which dramatically increases their observed flux. This, in turn, overshines most of the stellar continuum (plus absorption lines) from the host galaxy, as well as any AGN emissions. The non-detection of optical spectral features is one of the defining criteria to classify any object as a BL Lac ([Stickel et al. 1991](#)). The non-thermal origin of the emission in blazars generates, in the optical band, a blue, power law-like spectrum, which in itself is another typical signature of a BL Lac nature ([Marchã et al. 1996](#)). Non-periodical variability on very short time-scales, polarized emission, and association to high energy and/or very high energy sources are further criteria that are useful for classifying an object as a BL Lac, although this sort of evidence is generally considered less direct ([Laurent-Muehleisen et al. 1998](#)).

To further confirm or discard the conclusion, as stated in [Massaro et al. \(2017\)](#), that the source WISE J141046.00+740511.2 is indeed a blazar of the BL Lac type, we aim to present new, detailed optical spectra. In their work, [Marchesini et al. \(2016\)](#) found all the typical characteristics of a BL Lac object in a spectrum of WISE J141046.00+740511.2 taken with the *Galileo* National Telescope (TNG). They were not able to find any spectral features, although they indicate a hint of a possible emission line that is barely within detection.

However, both our spectra from Gemini-N and from GTC failed to detect any spectral feature whatsoever (see Fig. 2). More specifically, both these spectra confirm the fact that the possible emission hint found by [Marchesini et al. \(2016\)](#) was, in all probability, an artifact, and not an actual feature from the source itself. We rule out variability on the spectrum since the source magnitude was constant during the whole period covered by all three observations. It is also worth noting that the sensitivity and resolution of both these telescopes in the configurations we used (see Sects. 2.2.1 and 2.2.2) exceed the performance capabilities of TNG.

Moreover, taken together, our GTC and Gemini-N spectra cover the whole optical band, from  $\sim 400$  nm to  $\sim 1000$  nm. We did not detect any emission lines in this range. This could hint at the source lying at a relatively moderate distance, since it is simpler to swamp up intrinsically less intense emission lines (see, e.g., [Blandford et al. 1990](#)).

Perhaps the most compelling, definitive evidence of the BL Lac nature of WISE J141046.00+740511.2 is the fact that it also shows a high polarization degree (see Sect. 2.2.4). Such polarization degree is only possible for non-thermal emission processes, which, in turn, are dominant in only a handful of sources (see [Massaro et al. 2017](#)). However, the blue, power-law featureless spectrum paired with high polarization serves as the benchmark for the definitive classification of a source as a BL Lac (see, e.g., [Urry & Padovani 1995](#); [Laurent-Muehleisen et al. 1998](#)).

### 3.2. Radio loudness

Different parameters are used to determine the radio loudness of a given source. We discuss about these parameters and the way in which they are defined in the following, followed by a

**Table 2.** Multiwavelength data used in this paper.

Frequency [Hz]	Flux $\pm$ uncertainty [erg cm <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> ]
GMRT/VLA	
6.1E8	1.281 $\pm$ 0.003E-18
1.4E9	3.31 $\pm$ 0.04E-18
3.0E9	7.08 $\pm$ 0.08E-18
WISE	
8.8 E13	2.7 $\pm$ 0.2E-13
6.5 E13	2.3 $\pm$ 0.3E-13
2.5 E13	2.7 $\pm$ 0.9E-13
1.3 E13	10.2 $\pm$ 3.8E-13
WHT	
6.3 E14	2.67 $\pm$ 0.04E-13
4.8 E14	2.41 $\pm$ 0.04E-13
3.9 E14	2.08 $\pm$ 0.09E-13
LIV	
6.3 E14	2.3 $\pm$ 0.1E-13
4.8 E14	2.45 $\pm$ 0.05E-13
3.9 E14	2.55 $\pm$ 0.06E-13
Swift/UVOT	
8.6 E14	1.33 $\pm$ 0.09E-13
1.1 E15	1.2 $\pm$ 0.1E-13
1.3 E15	0.9 $\pm$ 0.1E-13
1.5 E15	1.3 $\pm$ 0.1E-13
Swift/XRT	
1.2 E18	1.1 $\pm$ 0.2E-13
Fermi-LAT	
4.8 E24	2.6 $\pm$ 1.3E-12
	2.8 $\pm$ 1.1E-12
1.2 E25	6.6 $\pm$ 3.1E-12
	7.1 $\pm$ 0.7E-12
	3.6 $\pm$ 0.5E-12

**Notes.** Uncertainties are reported at the  $1\sigma$  level.

description of our probe into their relationship with our source and its nature.

### 3.2.1. A radio criterion

WISE J141046.00+740511.2 is clearly detected in our JVLA observations at 1420 MHz and 3000 MHz, and in our GMRT pointings at 610 MHz (see Fig. 1). We derived fluxes from these observations by fitting a Gaussian profile with the width of the synthesized beam, for each mentioned frequency (see Table 3).

This source was first detected in radio wavelengths by Schinzel et al. (2017), and later by Cao et al. (2019); both detections were published after the first claim of WISE J141046.00+740511.2 as a RWBL source (Massaro et al. 2017). In all cases, at 1.4 GHz, the source was reported to be detected with a flux of  $\sim 2$  mJy, which is always compatible within the uncertainties related to the detection reported in this work.

After Gregg et al. (1996), the monochromatic radio power at 1.4 GHz (i.e.,  $L_{1.4\text{GHz}}$ ) sets the threshold to separate radio-loud from radio-weak quasars, in such a way that radio-loud sources are characterized by  $L_{1.4\text{GHz}} > 10^{25.5} \text{ W Hz}^{-1}$  (or  $L_{1.4\text{GHz}} > 4.4 \times 10^{41} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ ). The monochromatic radio power is defined as:

$$L_{1.4\text{GHz}} = \frac{S_{1.4} 4\pi D^2}{(1+z)^{1+\alpha}}, \quad (1)$$

**Table 3.** VLA and GMRT data.

$\nu_0$ [GHz]	$\Delta\nu$ [GHz]	$F_{\text{VLA}}$ [mJy]	$F_{\text{GMRT}}$ [mJy]	$\alpha_{\text{GMRT}}$	$\Delta\alpha$
0.610	0.033		2.1 $\pm$ 0.1		
1.42	0.064	2.33 $\pm$ 0.65	–		
3.0	0.128	2.36 $\pm$ 0.60		–0.11	0.07

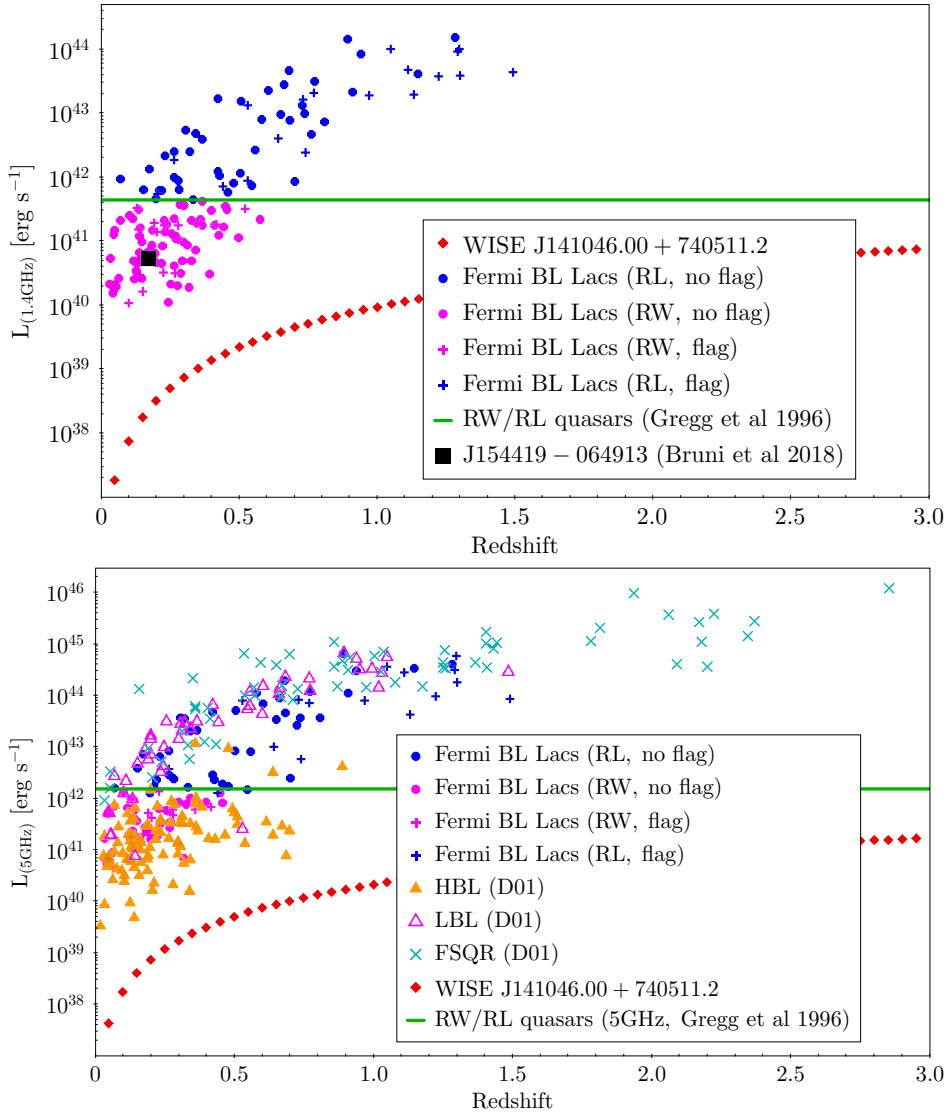
where  $D$  is the luminosity distance<sup>10</sup>,  $S_{1.4}$  [W m<sup>-2</sup> Hz<sup>-1</sup>] is the observed flux,  $z$  is the redshift, and  $\alpha$  is the spectral index.

In order to use  $L_{1.4\text{GHz}}$  to analyze our source, we selected all the available *Fermi*-detected BL Lac objects with known redshift, from BZCAT (Massaro et al. 2015b). We included all objects with a redshift value, differentiating those with or without redshift detection flags, for a total of 146 blazars. The upper panel of Fig. 4 shows the  $L_{1.4\text{GHz}} = 4.4 \times 10^{41} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$  threshold with a green, solid, horizontal line. Above this line, we find sources that should be classified as radio-loud BL Lac sources (blue filled circles and crosses); and below the line, the radio-weak BL Lac sources (magenta filled circles and crosses). Hereafter, we are going to refer to these subsamples as the radio-loud or radio-weak BL Lac samples, respectively, according to this criterion. The red dotted (diamonds) line represents the  $L_{1.4\text{GHz}}$  that our source would be expected to have as a function of  $z$ , according to Eq. (1) and our 1.4 GHz VLA data (Table 3). These points were obtained using the online tool provided by Wright (2006). In order to compare both the method and our source with another confirmed RWBL, we used the data of Bruni et al. (2018) to plot the RWBL source named J154419–164913 as a (black) filled square. This source is located where  $L_{1.4\text{GHz}}$  predicts to find the radio-weak sources, according to Gregg et al. (1996), and in spite of its non-quasar nature. The plot shows that WISE J141046.00+740511.2 is a radio-weak source, independently of its redshift value.

To add another perspective, we have also included the classified sample of 209 blazars with known redshifts from Donato et al. (2001, hereafter D01) in the lower panel of Fig. 4. This sample allowed us to compare the  $L$  threshold criterion with the spectral classification of the sources, since these sources have been classified into HBLs, LBLs, and FSRQs. Since the original data from D01 comprises the monochromatic power at 5 GHz, we changed the ordinates in the plot to take into account the luminosities of both samples at this frequency. The  $L_{1.4\text{GHz}}$  threshold defined by Gregg et al. (1996) was empirically translated to this new plot: we derived the tentative  $L_{5\text{GHz}}$  value ( $1.5 \times 10^{42} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ ), which separates the sample in the same subsamples as the threshold in 1.4 GHz. The plot also includes the BZCAT sample of sources with both known redshift and detected radio flux at 5 GHz. We have kept their colours separating radio-weak (magenta) and radio-loud (blue) sources in order to emphasize that these subsamples were defined on the basis of their luminosity at 1.4 GHz. We note that the BZCAT criteria to define a source as a BL Lac is stricter than the criteria used by D01, which means that the latter may suffer from contamination.

Following the same procedure as in the upper panel, the red curve shows the luminosity of our BL Lac source as a function of redshift. The flux at 5 GHz was extrapolated from the 3 GHz data by using the spectral index of  $\alpha = -0.11 \pm 0.07$  (Table 3).

<sup>10</sup> We adopt a flat cosmology with  $H \sim 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ ,  $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.7$ ,  $\Omega_m = 0.3$ ; and  $1 \text{ mJy} = 10^{-29} \text{ [W m}^{-2} \text{ Hz}^{-1}]$ .



**Fig. 4.** Luminosity of WISE J141046.00+740511.2 at 1.4 GHz as a function of redshift (red dotted line). The threshold of Gregg et al. (1996; green solid line) separates the BZCAT sample of known-redshift BL Lac sources into radio-loud (blue) and radio-weak (magenta) blazars. The red dotted line (diamonds) shows the luminosity that WISE J141046.00+740511.2 would have as a function of redshift according to our 1.4 GHz data. The black square shows the position of the confirmed RWBL J154419–064913. In the lower panel, we show a comparison of the extrapolated luminosity at 5 GHz of our source (red dotted line) with the sample of HBL (orange filled triangles), LBL (open pink triangles), and FSQR (cyan crosses) blazars.

It is straightforward to conclude that the target is a radio-weak source. Irrespective of redshift, WISE J141046.00+740511.2 shows a radio luminosity well below most known *Fermi*-LAT BL Lacs. In addition, WISE J141046.00+740511.2 shares characteristics with low-redshift HBL sources. Moreover, *Fermi*-LAT detections of BL Lacs with fluxes and photon indices such as those of WISE J141046.00+740511.2 are severely restricted in redshift due to pair-production extinction (see, e.g., Kneiske et al. 2004; Desai et al. 2017, and references therein), which is consistent with the low-redshift HBL classification of this source.

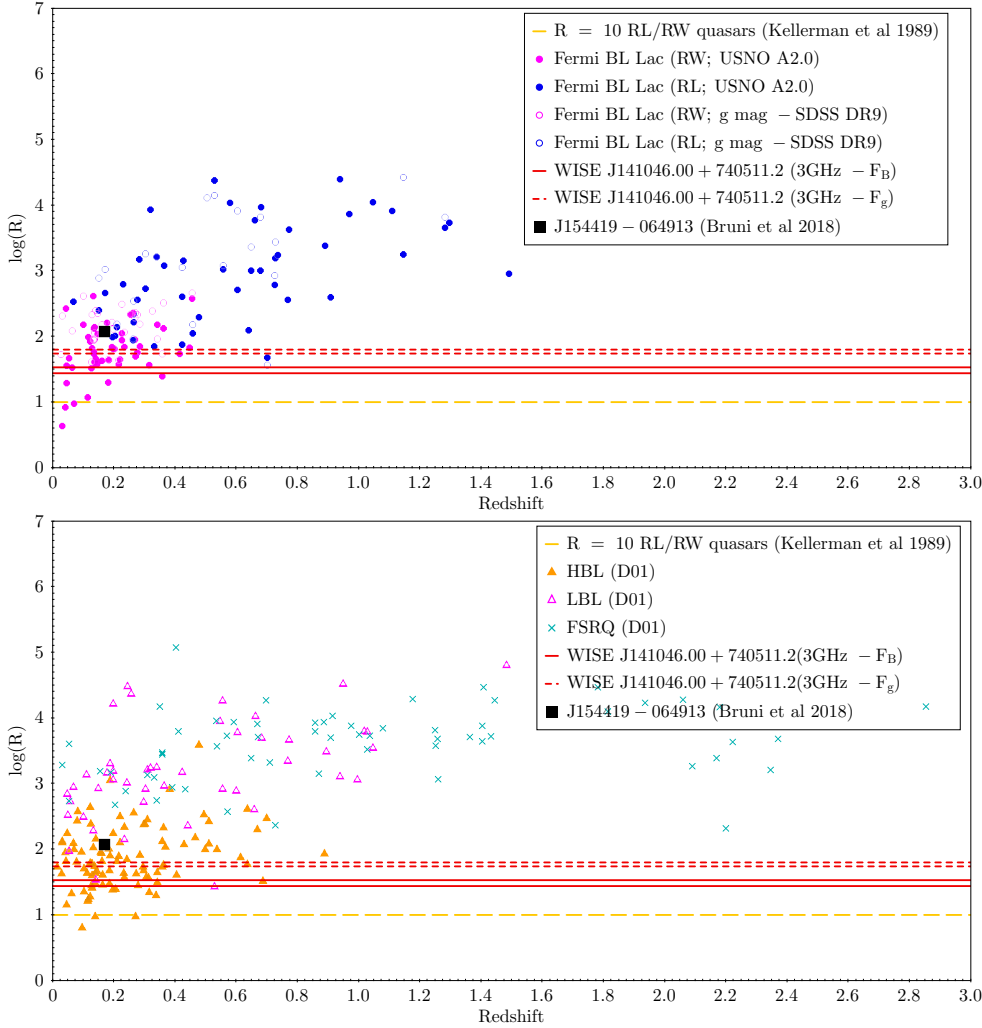
### 3.2.2. Comparing radio and optical powers

Another parameter commonly used to determine the radio loudness of a given source is  $R$ , given by:

$$R = \frac{f_{5\text{GHz}}}{f_{4400\text{\AA}}}, \quad (2)$$

as proposed by Gopal-Krishna et al. (1986), Kellermann et al. (1989), and Schneider et al. (1992) with the aim of classifying quasars. We used the same samples of BZCAT and D01 to analyze the reliability of  $R$  in the context of blazars. Figure 5 shows  $R$  as a function of redshift. Both panels show the  $R = 10$

threshold ( $\log(R) = 1$ ; yellow, dashed line) that separates radio-loud ( $\log(R) > 1$ ) from radio-weak ( $\log(R) < 1$ ) quasars. The bottle-neck in the calculus of  $R$  is the availability of optical data at  $4400\text{\AA}$  ( $440\text{ nm}$ ), both for our blazar samples and for WISE J141046.00+740511.2. The source was observed with WHT and Liverpool Telescope for this purpose, from where we obtained the fluxes in the  $g'$  filter (SDSS filter system). These data are plotted as red short-dashed lines ( $\log(R)_{\text{WHT}} = 1.74$ ,  $\log(R)_{\text{Liv}} = 1.8$ ). We have also used the  $B$  flux listed in the USNO A2.0 catalog (Monet 1998), and the  $B_p$  flux listed in the *Gaia* DR2 catalog (Gaia Collaboration 2018), which are plotted as red continuous lines ( $\log(R)_{\text{USNO}} = 1.44$ ,  $\log(R)_{\text{Gaia}} = 1.53$ ). We note that in both cases, our 3 GHz data were used instead of 5 GHz in the calculus of  $R$ . For the sake of comparison, the BZCAT subsamples (as defined in the former paragraph, keeping their respective colours) are used with both optical filters in the upper panel of Fig. 5: filled symbols denote that  $R$  was calculated by using the flux in the  $B$  filter, as it is defined; whereas open symbols denote that the flux in the  $g'$  filter was used instead of  $B$  in Eq. (2). As it can be seen, differences in the usage of  $B$  or  $g'$  are indistinguishable. In the lower panel, we have plotted the D01 classified sample, and  $R$  was calculated by using the 5 GHz and  $5500\text{\AA}$  fluxes from the same work. Both in the upper and lower panels we show the location of



**Fig. 5.**  $R$  parameter as a function of redshift. Data for WISE J141046.00+740511.2 are shown in red.  $R$  was calculated by using:  $B$ -fluxes from USNO and *Gaia* (red continuous lines) and  $g'$ -fluxes from WHT and Liverpool Telescope (the red dashed lines). *Upper panel:* BZCAT subsamples (set on the basis of their  $L_{1.4\text{GHz}}$ ; see Fig. 4). Filled (empty) circles denote that  $R$  was calculated by using  $B$ -fluxes from USNO A2.0 ( $g'$ -fluxes from SDSS DR9) data. *Lower panel:* comparison of  $R$  values between different blazar-types and WISE J141046.00+740511.2.

the known RWBL J154419–064913 (black filled square; the data were obtained from Bruni et al. 2018 and Sokolovsky et al. 2017). Regarding the BZCAT sample, this source is located in the region in-between the radio-loud and radio-weak subsamples. Also, it is located in the region where HBL and LBL sources overlap. Our RWBL-candidate locates toward the region of radio-weaker and HBL sources.

These two plots show the risk of using  $R$  to set the radio loudness of blazars, since almost the entire sample would be classified as radio-loud, even the already confirmed RWBL J154419–064913. This result shows that  $R$  and  $L_{1.4\text{GHz}}$  are not self-consistent in order to distinguish radio-loud from radio-weak blazars. In fact,  $R$  is used to distinguish radio-loud quasars from radio quiet quasars. In quasars, radio and optical emission arise from different components (the jet and the accretion disk, respectively), and are attributed to different physical processes, which is not the case for blazars. It is, however, straightforward to compare  $L_{1.4\text{GHz}}$  for sources of a given class. It is then understandable that both criteria measure different situations. We calculated the mean values of  $\log(R)$  for each group in the D01 sample, namely: 1.85 for HBLs, 2.97 for LBLs, and 3.62 for FSRQs.

It is worth noting that the term “radio weak” should not suggest the total lack of radio emission, but rather the intrinsically lower radio emission with respect to the general blazar population. As can be seen in Fig. 4, WISE J141046.00+740511.2 shows intrinsically less radio power than other sources of sim-

ilar characteristics (i.e.,  $\gamma$ -ray emitting BL Lac sources), which is on itself challenging to explain using only standard spectral models (see Sect. 4).

It is straightforward to note that according to the  $R$  parameter and the blazars classification, WISE J141046.00+740511.2 remains as an HBL independently of whether the  $B$  or  $g'$  flux was used. We note that the HBL subsample of D01 shows a mean redshift value of  $\langle z \rangle = 0.249$ .

### 3.2.3. A radio versus X-ray comparison

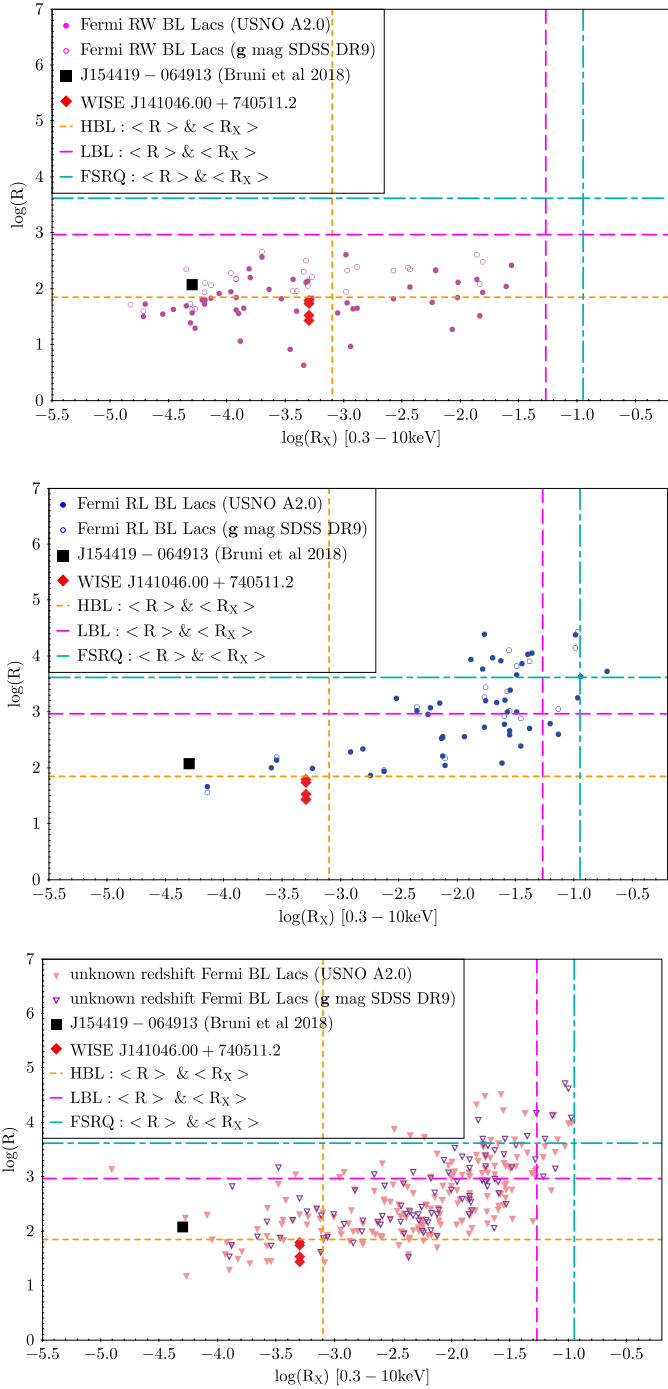
If the optical flux in Eq. (2) is replaced by the X-ray flux (2–10 keV), another characteristic parameter arises,  $R_X$ , as defined by Terashima & Wilson (2003):

$$R_X = \frac{\nu f_{5\text{GHz}}}{f_{(2-10\text{keV})}}. \quad (3)$$

The advantage of  $R_X$  over  $R$  is that the extinction that may affect the optical flux measurements should not be critical in the X-ray flux. In order to calculate  $R_X$  for the BZCAT samples we have used the *Swift* XRT data, so we have slightly changed the X-ray range to 0.3–10 keV.

Figure 6 shows the diagrams of  $R$  vs.  $R_X$ . The upper panels show the BZCAT radio-loud (right) and radio-weak (left) samples, separately. In the lower diagram we have used the set of BZCAT BL Lac objects whose redshifts remain unknown, as





**Fig. 6.**  $R$  vs.  $R_X$  diagrams. WISE J141046.00+740511.2 is shown as the (red) filled diamonds to point to its four possible  $R$  values (see Sect. 3.2.2). The three populations of blazars are highlighted through their mean values of  $R$  and  $R_X$ : HBLs in orange short-dashed lines, LBLs in pink long-dashed lines, and FSRQs in cyan dot-dashed lines. *Upper panel:* BZCAT subsamples, as in Figs. 4–5. *Lower panel:* BL Lac sources from BZCAT whose redshift, as that of our source, remain unknown.

in the case of WISE J141046.00+740511.2. As in Fig. 5, open symbols are used to highlight that  $R$  was calculated by using the optical  $g'$  flux instead of  $B$  (filled symbols). The red filled diamonds point to our RWBL-candidate through its four possible  $R$  values. The already known RWBL source is shown with (black) filled squares across the plots. The lines crossing the

plots represent the mean values of  $R$  and  $R_X$  for HBLs (orange), LBLs (pink), and FSRQs (cyan).

The two upper panels show that the radio-weak and radio-loud samples tend to be located in rather different zones of the diagram; there is a clear overlapping region, also seen in other diagrams. The RWBL and our candidate are located toward the region of radio-weak sources. However, more importantly, these diagrams highlight that different populations of blazars occupy different zones in the  $R_X$  vs.  $R$  diagram, especially regarding HBLs with respect to both LBLs and FSRQs. In this sense, both J154419–064913 and WISE J141046.00+740511.2 should be assumed to be HBLs. The lower diagram of Fig. 6 shows that BL Lac sources with unknown redshift could belong to any of the three subpopulations and that many of these sources behave in the same way as WISE J141046.00+740511.2 and J154419–064913 in the  $R$  vs.  $R_X$  space. This plot deserves further analysis to evaluate whether or not it can become a useful tool to distinguish not only between HBL and LBL populations, but also between radio-weak and radio-loud sources.

Indeed, we note that the  $R_X$  parameter is closely related to the  $\Phi_{XR}$  parameter used in Maselli et al. (2010):

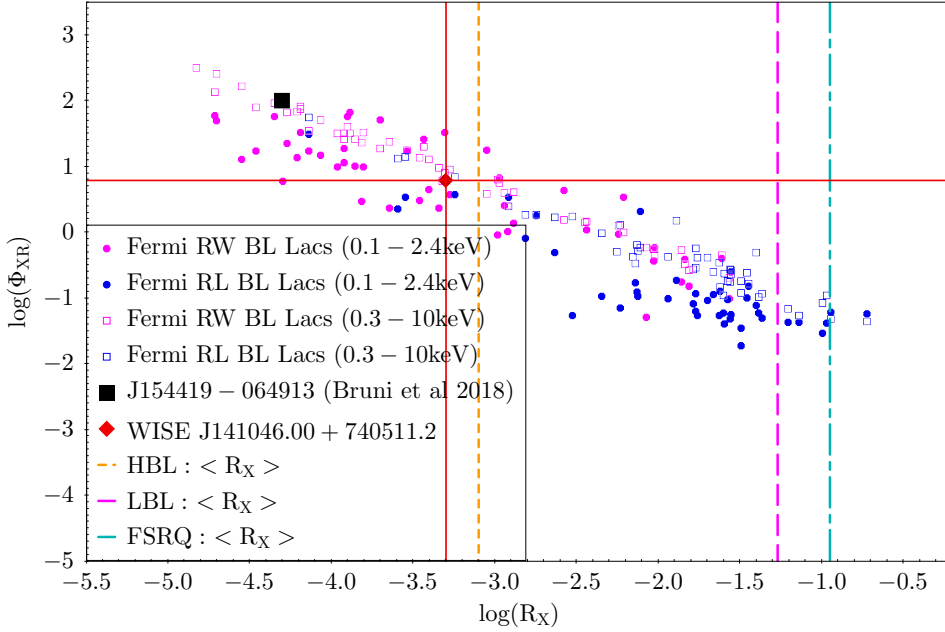
$$\Phi_{XR} = 10^{-3} \frac{F_X}{S_{1.4\text{GHz}} \Delta\nu}. \quad (4)$$

However, the parameter  $\Phi_{XR}$  was built to distinguish between LBLs and HBLs. So, among all the available parameters in the literature (and also those used in this work), this is the first one developed by using blazars. We have plotted both  $R_X$  and  $\Phi_{XR}$  in Fig. 7. As in previous diagrams, we used the BZCAT subsamples, but different symbols (circles and squares) are adopted in order to highlight that different X-ray bands were taken into account in the calculus of  $\Phi_{XR}$ . We note that the flux of WISE J141046.00+740511.2 was obtained in the 0.5–10 keV band. According to Maselli et al. (2010),  $\log(\Phi_{XR}) = 0$  sets the threshold above which HBL sources are expected to be found. Both WISE J141046.00+740511.2 and J154419–064913 locate in that region.

We conclude that the criterion adopted by Gregg et al. (1996) is a straightforward definition of radio power for blazars, although it relies on knowing the distance to the source, which for BL Lac objects may prove challenging. On the other hand, the  $R_X$  parameter, which is in turn closely related to the HBL/LBL spectral classification, may prove to be a viable way to predict the intrinsic radio power of a source. The HBL/LBL classification for sources with known distances is related to their radio power. The use of mixed X-ray and radio criteria has been proposed recently as a means of finding new blazars (Marchesini et al. 2020). Both the aforementioned methods unambiguously classify WISE J141046.00+740511.2 as a radio weak source. The  $R$  parameter, instead, is not representative of the gamma-ray parent population of BL Lac sources, which is due to the fact that it was originally defined for quasars.

#### 4. Modeling the broadband spectral energy distribution of WISE J141046.00+740511.2

In order to investigate the emission properties of this source, we applied a leptonic one-zone model, based on Tavecchio et al. (1998) and Ghisellini & Tavecchio (2009). Basically, we considered that the emission is produced in a spherical blob of radius,  $R_b$ , that moves relativistically with bulk Lorentz factor  $\Gamma$ . The blob is located at a dissipation distance from the black hole,  $z_{\text{diss}}$ , where the magnetic field is considered to be



**Fig. 7.** Relationship between  $\Phi_{XR}$  and  $R_X$ . Both the RWBL J154419–064913 and our RWBL-candidate are located within the region of HBL sources, according to  $\Phi_{XR}$ , marked with black and red lines, respectively.

uniform and, in the comoving frame, given by:

$$B'(z_{\text{diss}}) = \frac{1}{\Gamma} \sqrt{\frac{\xi 8\pi L_j}{c R_b}}, \quad (5)$$

where  $\xi$  is a free parameter of the model, accounting for the ratio between the magnetic to jet kinetic energy density, and  $L_j$  is the jet luminosity. We adopted  $R_b = 0.1 z_{\text{diss}}$ , which is consistent with a conical jet with an opening angle of  $\sim 0.1$  (equivalent to  $\sim 6^\circ$ ).

At the location of the blob, particles can be accelerated up to relativistic energies. Hence, we consider that a fraction  $\eta$  of the jet kinetic energy density goes into non-thermal electrons, with an injection function represented by a power-law with index  $\alpha$ . The particle distribution in the blob is obtained by solving a transport equation, taking into account the radiative cooling. In all cases, we considered  $\eta = 0.1$ , and the minimum Lorentz factor of the electrons,  $\gamma^e$ , is a free parameter of the model.

As discussed in the previous sections, all data seem to indicate that this is an HBL, hence, we do not include any external photon source for IC scattering (Ghisellini & Tavecchio 2009). The optical spectra do not show features that would be evident in the presence of an external component (i.e., clouds). Thus, we chose to consider a pure SSC model. However, it must be noted that such component could still be present if its emission is swamped by the emission arising from the relativistic jet aligned with the line of sight.

Given the amount of free parameters, the model is clearly degenerated. In order to constrain the degeneracy, we fixed some of the parameters to standard values for HBLs: we considered a black hole mass of  $M_{\text{BH}} = 10^8 M_\odot$ , and a bulk Lorentz factor of  $\Gamma = 10$ ; in addition, for an inclination angle of the jet with respect to the line of sight of  $\theta_j = 1/\Gamma$ , we obtained a Doppler factor  $\delta \sim \Gamma$ . Then, we varied the free parameters within the following ranges:  $L_j = 10^{43-45} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ ,  $z_{\text{diss}} = 500-2500 r_g$  (with  $r_g = GM/c^2$  being the gravitational radius),  $\xi = 10^{-6} - 1$ ,  $\alpha = 1.5 - 3$ , and  $\gamma^e = 1 - 10^4$ .

Following Massaro et al. (2004, 2017), we also considered a log-parabolic model for the particle distribution, given by:

$$N(\gamma) \propto (\gamma/\gamma_0)^{-(s+r \log(\gamma/\gamma_0))}, \quad (6)$$

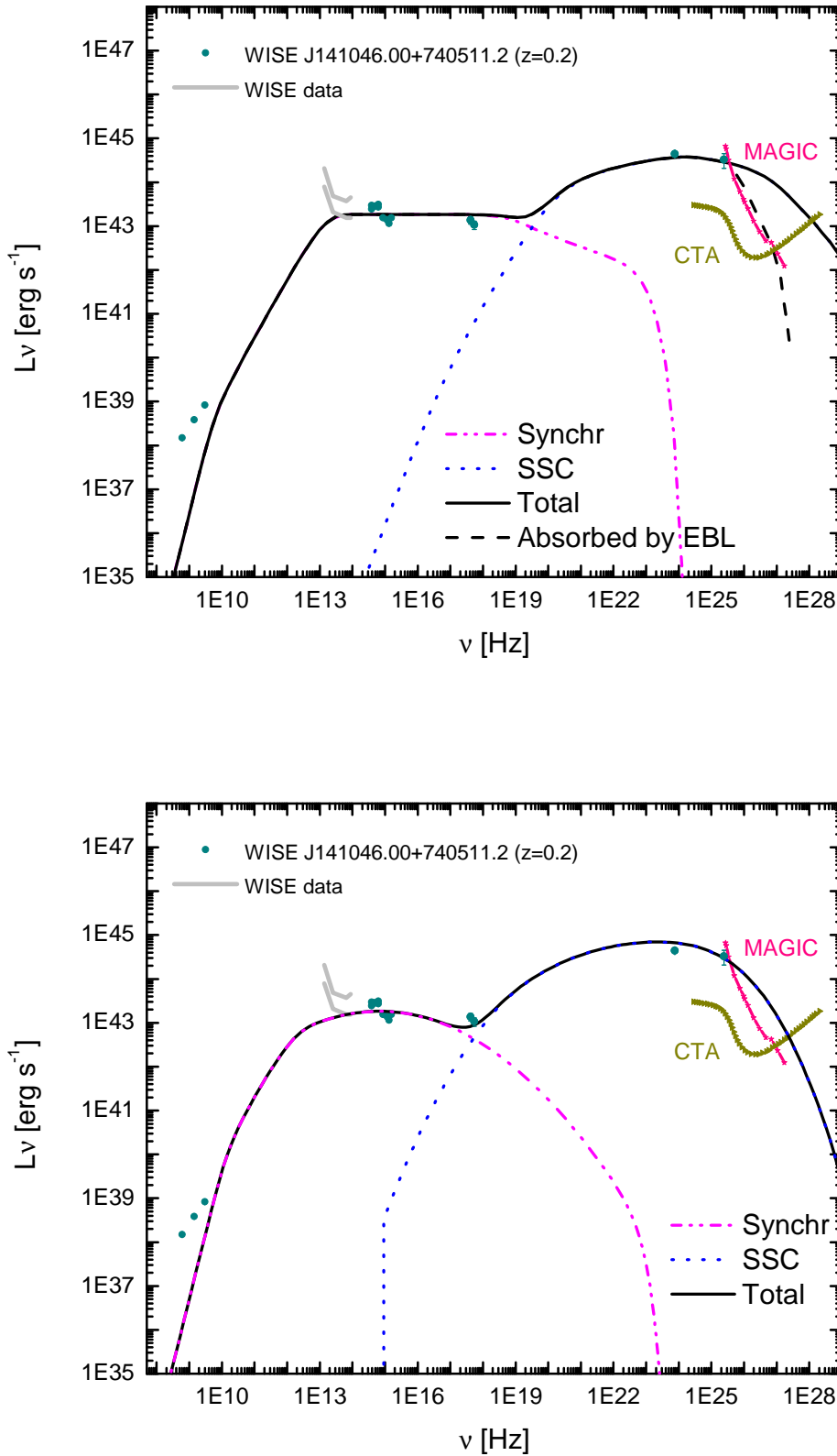
where  $\gamma_0$  is a reference energy,  $s$  is the spectral index at the reference energy, and  $r$  the curvature of the parabola, that is, the spectral curvature. In order to fit the data with this model, we use the online tool for generating AGN SEDs<sup>11</sup> (Massaro et al. 2006; Tramacere et al. 2007b, 2009, 2011). We found a good agreement between both the power-law and the log-parabolic distributions. Figure 8 shows the broadband SED obtained with the best-fit parameters for the two models for particle distributions, for a redshift of  $z = 0.2$ . Similar plots were obtained for  $z = 1$ .

We included the WISE data in the plot for completeness, since infrared fluxes are relevant to the proper classification of a blazar (D’Abrusco et al. 2012; Massaro & D’Abrusco 2016). However, we note these fluxes should be taken with caution, since they are not contemporaneous with those at other frequencies. In addition, the source showed a highly variable behavior in the WISE bands  $W1$  and  $W2$ , with changes up to an order of magnitude during the observation. Taking these points into account, we see that the emission in our model underestimates the far-IR data; this excess might be explained by emission in extended regions of the jet (Valverde et al. 2020).

Table 4 summarizes the parameter values for the power-law model. We obtained:  $B = 0.03$  and  $0.7 \text{ G}$ , for  $z = 0.2$  and  $z = 1$ , respectively, and  $\gamma^e = 10^3$  for both cases. Using these same conditions of the emitting regions, we went on to vary the parameter of the log-parabolic distribution, obtaining the following parameters:  $s = 0.9$ ,  $r = 0.32$ , and  $\gamma_0 = 9$ .

For both values of  $z$  and for both models of the particle distribution used to reproduce the data, the synchrotron peak is beyond  $10^{17} \text{ Hz}$ , probably suggesting that WISE J141046.00+740511.2 is an EHBL (Ghisellini et al. 1998). Our results are in accordance with those found in the literature studying the behavior of EHBLs, in particular, magnetic fields well below equipartition (Bonnoli et al. 2015; Acciari et al. 2020) and display high values of minimum Lorentz factor of electrons (Tavecchio et al. 2009; Bonnoli et al. 2015). In addition, the weak radio flux detected for this source is in accordance with this classification, as discussed in Bonnoli et al.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.isdc.unige.ch/sedtool/PROD/SED.html>



**Fig. 8.** Broadband SED of WISE J141046.00+740511.2. The solid circles represent the simultaneous multiwavelength data of the source. Data from WISE, which are not contemporaneous, are shown in gray curves (maximum and minimum fluxes). The black solid line is the SED obtained with the leptonic one-zone model, using the best-fit parameter for the power-law distribution (*top panel*) and the log-parabolic one (*bottom panel*); dashed black line shows the SED absorbed by the EBL (Domínguez et al. 2011). The sensitivity curves of MAGIC (Aleksić et al. 2016) and CTA are also included.

(2015). Nevertheless, the classification of this object as an EHBL is still model-dependent and requires further analysis.

The size of the emitting region and the Doppler factor are in agreement with a variability timescale of  $\sim 1$  day (see Massaro et al. (2017) for a mid-IR variability analysis). Given the compactness of the region ( $R_b \times 10^{15}$  cm), synchrotron

radiation is self-absorbed at radio frequencies (Tavecchio et al. 1998). Since the source is not resolved by VLA observations, there is a maximum size of the radio emitting region compatible with these results. Considering redshifts of  $z = 0.2/1$ , this region should be of  $\lesssim \text{kpc}$  scales. In a forthcoming work, we will study radio emission produced in more extended regions of the

**Table 4.** Best-fit parameter values.

Parameter	$z = 0.2$	$z = 1$
$z_{\text{diss}}/r_g$	1000	500
$L_j$ [erg s <sup>-1</sup> ]	10 <sup>45</sup>	10 <sup>45</sup>
$B$	0.03 G	0.7 G
$\alpha$	3	2.5
$\gamma^e$	10 <sup>3</sup>	10 <sup>3</sup>

jet (e.g., [Ghisellini et al. 2005](#)), taking into account these constraints with the aim of explaining the radio weakness of this HBL.

## 5. Summary and conclusions

We conducted a multiwavelength observational campaign of the source WISE J141046.00+740511.2 to study its nature. Originally detected by *Fermi*, it was later revealed to show several BL Lac characteristics in the  $\gamma$ -ray, X-ray, UV, optical, and infrared bands, but its radio emission was not on par with what is expected for a radio-loud source, as a canonical BL Lac would demonstrate.

We state that WISE J141046.00+740511.2 is indeed a  $\gamma$ -ray emitting BL Lac source, given its typical BL Lac optical spectrum as observed by high-sensitivity telescopes and its observed high degree of optical polarization. To estimate an intrinsic polarization degree, the linear polarization of the synchrotron flux, produced by an electron power-law energy spectrum  $N(E) \propto E^{-\Gamma}$  in an optically thin source with a uniform magnetic field  $B_0$ , is given by (e.g., [Pacholczyk & Swihart 1970](#)):

$$P_0(\Gamma) = \frac{3\Gamma + 3}{3\Gamma + 7}. \quad (7)$$

For an index of  $\Gamma = 2.5\text{--}3$ , namely, the values obtained for the electrons, we derive an intrinsic polarization of  $P_0 \sim 72\text{--}75\%$ . Even in the worst-case scenario conditions (such as a magnetic field structure as in the launching region of the jet, [Vieyro et al. 2016](#)), the intrinsic polarization would remain above  $P_0 \sim 75\%$ . This is the strongest evidence that this source is of the BL Lac kind.

We also claim that WISE J141046.00+740511.2 most probably lies at a moderate redshift ( $z \lesssim 0.2$ ), since it would agree with both the observed data (no spectral features detectable in the 400–1000 nm range, and the fraction of radio and X-ray emission to optical flux), and the theoretical emission models. WISE J141046.00+740511.2 has been detected in radio frequencies, with a flux  $< 2.5$  mJy, making it one order of magnitude less bright in radio than the rest of the *Fermi* BL Lacs. We classified the source as an HBL both by the fraction of its X-ray to radio flux and by the position of its synchrotron peak in SED models.

Finally, we applied a one-zone model to estimate the shape of its SED. The best-fit parameter set results in synchrotron peaks above 10<sup>17</sup> Hz, making WISE J141046.00+740511.2 an EHBL candidate. Some of the parameter values are also in accordance with those found for modeling EHBL ([Bondi et al. 2001](#); [Acciari et al. 2020](#)). Further analysis is needed to model the radio weakness of this source.

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