



## THE UV-BRIGHT QUASAR SURVEY (UVQS): DR1

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### ABSTRACT

We present the first data release (DR1) from our UV-bright Quasar Survey for new  $z \sim 1$  active galactic nuclei (AGNs) across the sky. Using simple *GALEX* UV and *WISE* near-IR color selection criteria, we generated a list of 1450 primary candidates with  $FUV < 18.5$  mag. We obtained discovery spectra, primarily on 3 m-class telescopes, for 1040 of these candidates and confirmed 86% as AGNs, with redshifts generally at  $z > 0.5$ . Including a small set of observed secondary candidates, we report the discovery of 217 AGNs with  $FUV < 18$  mag that previously had no reported spectroscopic redshift. These are excellent potential targets for UV spectroscopy before the end of the *Hubble Space Telescope* mission. The main data products are publicly available through the Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes.

*Key words:* intergalactic medium – quasars: general

*Supporting material:* machine-readable tables

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Presently, the only efficient means of studying the diffuse gas surrounding galaxies (a.k.a. halo gas or the circumgalactic medium, CGM) and in between galaxies (a.k.a. the intergalactic medium, IGM) is through absorption-line spectroscopy of luminous, background quasars (e.g., Tripp et al. 2008; Tumlinson et al. 2013; Tejos et al. 2014). Furthermore, because the principal transitions to diagnose gas lie at far-ultraviolet (FUV) wavelengths ( $\lambda_{\text{rest}} < 2000$  Å), for  $z < 1$  studies, one requires UV spectrometers on space-borne facilities. Currently, and for the foreseeable future, the *Hubble Space Telescope* (*HST*) affords the only opportunity for such research, primarily with the Cosmic Origins Spectrograph (COS). Given the modest aperture of *HST*, these observations are generally restricted to the brightest FUV quasars on the sky.

High-quality, FUV spectroscopy of  $z \sim 1$  quasars has enabled several unique experiments to study the CGM and IGM of the universe over the past  $\sim 10$  Gyr. These include: (1) the survey of highly ionized gas via the  $\text{Ne VIII } \lambda\lambda 770, 780$  doublet and/or broad  $\text{H I Ly}\alpha$  systems that may trace the elusive warm-hot ionized medium (e.g., Lehner et al. 2007; Meiring et al. 2013; Tejos et al. 2016); (2) the search for signatures of galactic and active galactic nucleus (AGN) feedback (e.g., Tripp et al. 2011); (3) the measurements of enrichment in galactic halos and optically thick gas (e.g., Lehner et al. 2013; Werk et al. 2013, 2014); and (4) revealing the structure of the cosmic web and its correlation to the large-scale structures traced by galaxies (e.g., Tejos et al. 2014). While each of these programs has had a scientific impact, they are limited by sample variance.

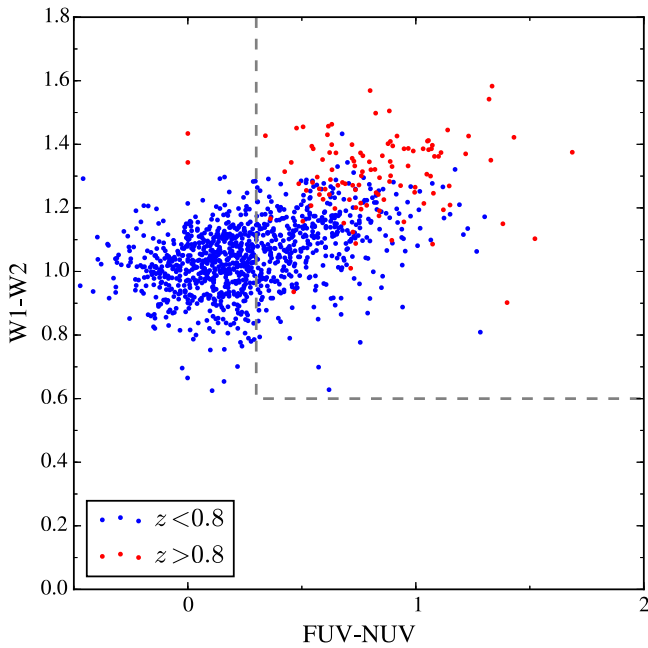
An efficient way to increase the volumes surveyed is to focus on those bright UV QSOs that maximize the redshift path covered, i.e., those with  $z_{\text{em}} \gtrsim 1$ . To date, only a small number of  $z \sim 1$  quasars have been observed with *HST*, primarily corresponding to the set of sources with very high FUV flux.

These have been drawn from historical, large-area surveys for AGNs (e.g., the Palomar-Green Bright Quasar Survey and the Hamburg/ESO survey) and more recently the Northern Galactic pole footprint of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS). Cross-matching the quasar sample of Flesch (2015) against the point-source catalog of the *GALEX* survey, one recovers  $\approx 140$  sources with  $z > 0.6$  and  $FUV < 18$  mag (fewer than 50 at  $z > 1$ ). These are preferentially located within the SDSS footprint, which has extensively surveyed the Northern galactic pole for quasars (e.g., Schneider et al. 2010). Given that *HST* may observe nearly any position on the sky, we are motivated to perform an all-sky search for new, FUV-bright quasars across the sky. Indeed, progress in this area demands the discovery of new FUV-bright quasars.

The principal goal of our survey is to provide the community with a nearly complete set of UV-bright AGNs before the termination of the *HST* mission. We recognized that the combination of two NASA imaging missions—*GALEX* and *WISE*—enables a modern, all-sky search for UV bright quasars. These must be spectroscopically confirmed, however, before subsequent *HST* observations. Given our interest in FUV-bright sources, this implies optically bright candidates that can be spectroscopically confirmed on 3 m-class telescopes. The following manuscript provides the first data release (DR1) from our UV-bright Quasar Survey (UVQS). The main data products are available at the Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes.<sup>5</sup>

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the UVQS candidate selection, focused on detecting  $z \sim 1$  quasars with  $FUV < 18$  mag. The follow-up spectroscopy is discussed in Section 3 and the redshift analysis is described in Section 4. We present the primary results in Section 5. When relevant, we

<sup>5</sup> <https://archive.stsci.edu/prepds/uvqs>



**Figure 1.** Color-color plot of *WISE* and *GALEX* photometry of the SDSS DR7 quasars (Schneider et al. 2010) that have an NUV flux  $< 19$  mag. It is evident that each has a  $W1 - W2 > 0.6$  mag color, consistent with the Stern et al. (2012) selection criteria for AGNs. Furthermore, the  $z > 0.8$  quasars exhibit redder FUV-NUV colors, which we hypothesize results from intervening Lyman limit opacity. The gray dashed lines at  $W1 - W2 = 0.6$  mag and  $FUV-NUV = 0.3$  mag indicate the color-color criteria adopted for our primary candidates (Table 1).

assume a  $\Lambda$ CDM cosmology with  $h = 0.7$ ,  $\Omega_m = 0.3$ , and  $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.7$ .

## 2. THE UVQS CANDIDATES

With the explicit goal of discovering new FUV-bright quasars at  $z \sim 1$  across the sky, we developed color-color criteria, leveraging the all-sky surveys of the *WISE* and *GALEX* missions to (i) isolate AGNs and (ii) maximize the probability that these AGNs lie at  $z_{\text{em}} \gtrsim 1$ . For the first criterion, we followed the impressive results from the *WISE* team who demonstrated the clean separation of AGNs from stars, galaxies, and other astrophysical sources using *WISE* photometry (Stern et al. 2012). Specifically, Stern et al. (2012) showed that AGNs tend to exhibit  $W1 - W2 > 0.4$  mag, with galaxies and stars having smaller values. Although this criterion may not capture all AGNs (e.g., Assef et al. 2010), we strongly expect that every UV-bright AGN satisfies the criterion. Indeed, we find that of the 1148 quasars at  $z < 1.5$  from SDSS DR7 detected by *GALEX* ( $NUV < 19.0$ ), all have  $W1 - W2 > 0.625$  mag (Figure 1). The overwhelming majority of these have  $z < 0.8$  (90%).

Figure 1 also shows the FUV-NUV colors of these quasars. These were measured from the “photoobjall” catalog of the GALEXGR6Plus7 context at MAST and improved, where possible, using the MIS catalog (“bcscat\_mis” Bianchi et al. 2014). We see that the majority of  $z < 0.8$  quasars have  $FUV-NUV < 0.3$  mag (60%) and that nearly all of the  $z > 0.8$  quasars have a redder FUV-NUV color. We believe that this “reddening” primarily results from the presence of one or more Lyman limit systems (LLSs) in the redshift interval  $0.5 < z < 0.8$ , whose continuum opacity reduces only the

FUV flux. We infer that nearly every  $z \sim 1$  quasar exhibits at least one intervening LLS<sup>6</sup> with  $N_{\text{H I}} > 10^{16.7} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ .

With our photometric criteria established,

$$W1 - W2 > 0.6 \text{ mag} \quad (1)$$

$$FUV-NUV > 0.3 \text{ mag} \quad (2)$$

$$FUV < 18.5 \text{ mag}, \quad (3)$$

we cross-matched every source in the GALEXGR6Plus7 catalogs<sup>7</sup> satisfying these criteria against the AllWISE Source Catalog. To avoid selecting already known quasars given the beam sizes of *WISE* and *GALEX*, we then eliminated any sources that lay within  $5''$  of a UV-bright quasar from SDSS DR7. This generated a list of 1450 primary candidates (Table 1). We discovered, during our analysis, that this candidate list includes hundreds of previously cataloged sources from other surveys. This includes the SDSS-III survey which included *WISE*-selected quasar targets (Pâris et al. 2014). Their primary *WISE* criteria, however, precluded overlap with our sample. Given that several of these surveys have known examples of false redshift identifications or do not provide the discovery spectra, we maintained the list and re-observed many of the brighter sources ( $FUV < 18$  mag). Figure 2 shows an all-sky summary of the UVQS candidates, separated by FUV flux. The exclusion of the Galactic plane is obvious and the lower incidence of sources in the SDSS footprint is notable.

In several of the observing runs, conditions were unexpectedly favorable and we exhausted the primary candidates at certain R.A. ranges. To fill the remaining observing time, we generated a secondary candidate list with one criterion modified:  $-0.5 < FUV-NUV < 0.3$ . This would permit a much higher fraction of low- $z$  AGNs, but may also yield a few sources at  $z \sim 1$ . This secondary set of candidates is provided in Table 2.

## 3. OBSERVATIONS AND DATA PROCESSING

We proceeded to obtain discovery-quality longslit spectra (i.e., low-dispersion, large wavelength coverage, modest signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) of our UVQS candidates in one calendar year. Our principal facilities were: (i) the dual Kast spectrometer on the 3 m Shane telescope at the Lick Observatory; (ii) the Boller & Chivens (BCS) spectrometer on the Irénée du Pont 100'' telescope at the Las Campanas Observatory; and (iii) the Calar Alto Faint Object Spectrograph on the CAHA 2.2 m telescope at the Calar Alto Observatory (CAHA). We acquired an additional  $\approx 20$  spectra on larger aperture telescopes (Keck/ESI, MMT/MBC, *Magellan/MagE*) during twilight or under poor observing conditions. Typical exposure times were limited to  $\lesssim 200$  s, with adjustments for fainter sources or sub-optimal observing conditions. Table 3 provides a list of the observed candidates.

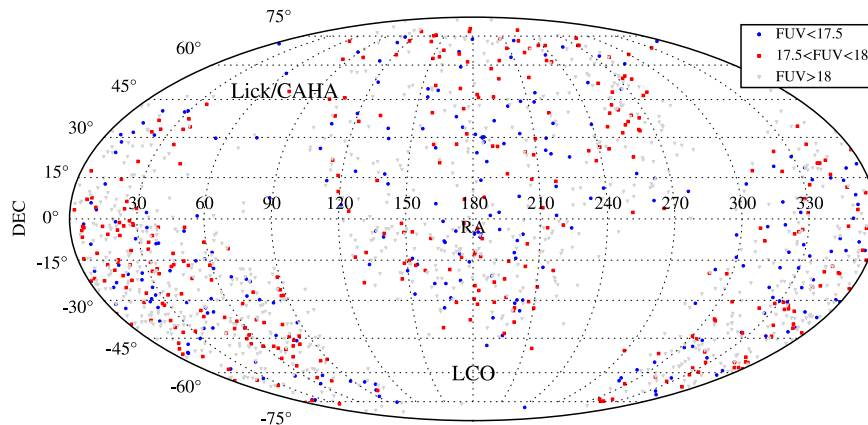
<sup>6</sup> In standard IGM nomenclature, LLSs with  $N_{\text{H I}} < 10^{17.3} \text{ cm}^{-2}$  are often referred to as partial LLS or pLLS.

<sup>7</sup> Our explicit cassjobs query for the AIS data was: select objid, ra, dec, fuv\_mag as fuv, nuv\_mag as nuv from photoobjall; where fuv\_mag BETWEEN 12. and 18.5; and (fuv\_mag-nuv\_mag) BETWEEN -0.5 and 2.0; and fuv\_mag > -999; and nuv\_mag > -999. We then used the following for the MIS to improve the photometry: select objid, ra, dec, fuv\_mag as fuv, nuv\_mag as nuv from bcscat\_mis; where fuv\_mag BETWEEN 12. and 18.5; and (fuv\_mag-nuv\_mag) BETWEEN -0.5 and 2.0; and fuv\_mag > -999; and nuv\_mag > -999.

**Table 1**  
UVQS DR1 Primary Candidates

Name	$\alpha_{J2000}$ ( $^{\circ}$ )	$\delta_{J2000}$ ( $^{\circ}$ )	W1 (mag)	W2 (mag)	FUV (mag)	NUV (mag)
UVQSJ000000.15–200427.7	0.00064	–20.07437	13.55	12.54	18.27	17.97
UVQSJ000002.92–350332.6	0.01218	–35.05905	12.69	11.55	17.61	17.31
UVQSJ000009.66–163441.5	0.04023	–16.57819	13.43	12.19	18.48	17.72
UVQSJ000037.52–752442.6	0.15633	–75.41184	11.69	10.63	17.81	17.45
UVQSJ000355.89–224122.4	0.98286	–22.68955	13.24	12.11	17.97	17.24
UVQSJ000503.70–391747.9	1.26542	–39.29664	12.26	11.12	17.82	17.23
UVQSJ000609.57–261140.6	1.53989	–26.19460	13.31	12.12	18.16	17.53
UVQSJ000613.29+321534.6	1.55537	32.25960	12.93	11.75	18.42	17.95
UVQSJ000717.70+421646.7	1.82374	42.27963	12.44	11.51	18.09	17.61
UVQSJ000741.01–635145.9	1.92085	–63.86274	12.65	11.45	17.96	17.41
UVQSJ000750.79+031733.1	1.96161	3.29253	12.98	11.58	17.80	17.01
UVQSJ000755.68+052818.8	1.98200	5.47189	13.12	11.73	18.07	17.29
UVQSJ000814.36+121201.4	2.05983	12.20039	13.64	12.49	18.20	17.73
UVQSJ000827.05–405126.6	2.11270	–40.85740	12.83	12.17	18.46	18.10
UVQSJ000856.77–235317.6	2.23655	–23.88821	13.00	11.73	18.32	16.89
UVQSJ001015.62–624045.2	2.56509	–62.67921	13.68	12.42	18.39	17.75
UVQSJ001121.73–200212.2	2.84055	–20.03671	13.10	11.81	18.42	17.53
UVQSJ001127.08–143314.3	2.86282	–14.55399	13.05	12.42	17.80	17.46
UVQSJ001155.61–240438.9	2.98169	–24.07747	13.16	12.02	18.24	17.16
UVQSJ001250.39–214704.9	3.20997	–21.78469	12.65	11.53	17.97	17.45
UVQSJ001444.03–223522.6	3.68344	–22.58961	13.16	11.77	18.39	17.34

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



**Figure 2.** All-sky plot describing the spatial distribution of our primary candidates, coded by FUV flux. We have avoided the Galactic plane and also note that there are fewer targets toward the Northern Galactic pole (i.e., within the SDSS footprint).

The two-dimensional (2D) spectral images and calibration frames were reduced with custom software, primarily the LowRedux package<sup>8</sup> developed by J. Hennawi, X. Prochaska, and D. Schlegel. Briefly, the images were bias-subtracted, flat-fielded using quartz lamp spectral images, and wavelength-calibrated with arc-lamp exposures. Objects within the slit were automatically identified and optimally extracted to 1D spectra. These were fluxed after generating a sensitivity function from observations of spectrophotometric standard stars taken during each observing run. We did not carefully account for varying atmospheric conditions and we did not correct for slit-losses from variable seeing or atmospheric dispersion. Therefore, the reported fluxes are crude and not even especially accurate in a relative sense, particularly at the wavelength extrema. Although we occasionally obtained multiple exposures for a given

source, these were not combined; the highest quality spectrum was analyzed. Upon visual inspection we assigned a spectral data quality number (SPEC\_QUAL) to each spectrum. Our scale spans 0–5, in which 0 is poor, or unusable, and 5 is excellent. SPEC\_QUAL values are a good proxy for S/N and are included in Table 3. Note that even spectra without spectral features may have a high SPEC\_QUAL value.

The calibrated 1D spectra are published in DR1 and provided at <https://archive.stsci.edu/prepds/uvqs>. We also present a cut-out, optical image of each source taken from the SDSS or DSS surveys. Figure 3 shows representative spectra from the UVQ DR1 sample, including examples of a Galactic star, a low- $z$  AGN, and a  $z > 1$  quasar (PHL 1288). At the S/N of these spectra (each of which has a spectral quality of 4 or 5), redshift identification is straightforward. We note that  $\approx 50\%$  of our spectra have this data quality and another 40% have SPEC\_QUAL = 3, which we consider sufficient for redshift analysis.

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.ucoick.org/~xavier/LowRedux/>

**Table 2**  
UVQS DR1 Secondary Candidates

Name	$\alpha_{J2000}$ ( $^{\circ}$ )	$\delta_{J2000}$ ( $^{\circ}$ )	W1 (mag)	W2 (mag)	FUV (mag)	NUV (mag)
UVQSJ000007.85–633535.2	0.03271	–63.59311	13.25	12.32	18.06	17.77
UVQSJ000011.73+052317.4	0.04886	5.38818	11.90	10.88	18.37	18.30
UVQSJ000024.03–275153.5	0.10013	–27.86486	12.85	11.80	18.32	18.14
UVQSJ000024.42–124547.9	0.10173	–12.76331	11.08	10.08	15.82	15.78
UVQSJ000036.68–634123.7	0.15285	–63.68991	12.44	11.46	18.10	18.15
UVQSJ000053.51–443933.5	0.22297	–44.65930	12.56	11.81	17.95	17.95
UVQSJ000054.29+183021.4	0.22621	18.50594	13.26	12.18	16.65	16.47
UVQSJ000055.97+172338.9	0.23320	17.39414	13.13	12.09	17.71	17.83
UVQSJ000103.53–114725.9	0.26469	–11.79053	12.70	11.59	18.04	18.13
UVQSJ000115.89+051902.1	0.31621	5.31725	13.47	12.61	18.43	18.44
UVQSJ000118.99+172425.3	0.32913	17.40703	12.86	11.88	18.48	18.33
UVQSJ000128.58–320842.1	0.36908	–32.14502	13.17	12.05	18.30	18.03
UVQSJ000146.09–765714.3	0.44203	–76.95396	11.01	10.23	17.05	16.88
UVQSJ000150.56+111647.3	0.46068	11.27981	11.68	10.73	17.27	17.12
UVQSJ000200.53–073907.5	0.50220	–7.65209	14.11	13.01	18.19	18.13
UVQSJ000210.06+171558.2	0.54193	17.26616	15.50	14.85	18.46	18.16
UVQSJ000211.74–342623.7	0.54890	–34.43992	13.19	12.16	18.22	18.09
UVQSJ000226.43+032106.9	0.61011	3.35191	10.76	10.13	16.39	16.14
UVQSJ000253.61–260346.4	0.72338	–26.06289	13.21	12.07	17.97	17.84
UVQSJ000316.84–275627.0	0.82017	–27.94084	12.53	11.60	17.76	17.64
UVQSJ000327.65+200919.5	0.86523	20.15542	13.30	12.27	18.34	18.06

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

**Table 3**  
UVQS DR1 Observations

Name	Observatory	Instrument	Date	SPEC_QUAL <sup>a</sup>
UVQSJ000000.15–200427.7	LCO	BCS	2014 Aug	3
UVQSJ000009.65–163441.4	LCO	BCS	2014 Aug	3
UVQSJ000503.70–391747.9	LCO	BCS	2014 Aug	3
UVQSJ000609.57–261140.5	LCO	BCS	2014 Aug	3
UVQSJ000613.28+321534.5	Lick	Kast	2015 Jan	2
UVQSJ000717.69+421646.6	Lick	Kast	2015 Jan	4
UVQSJ000741.00–635145.8	LCO	BCS	2014 Aug	3
UVQSJ000750.78+031733.1	LCO	BCS	2014 Aug	4
UVQSJ000755.67+052818.8	LCO	BCS	2014 Aug	3
UVQSJ000814.35+121201.3	Lick	Kast	2015 Jan	1
UVQSJ000856.77–235317.5	LCO	BCS	2014 Aug	4
UVQSJ001015.62–624045.1	LCO	BCS	2014 Aug	3
UVQSJ001121.73–200212.1	LCO	BCS	2014 Aug	3
UVQSJ001155.60–240438.8	LCO	BCS	2014 Aug	4
UVQSJ001444.02–223522.6	LCO	BCS	2014 Aug	3
UVQSJ001521.62–385419.1	LCO	BCS	2014 Aug	3
UVQSJ001529.53–360535.3	LCO	BCS	2014 Aug	3
UVQSJ001637.90–054424.8	Lick	Kast	2015 Jan	3
UVQSJ001641.88–312656.6	<i>Magellan</i>	MagE	2014 Jul	5
UVQSJ001653.66–530932.6	LCO	BCS	2014 Aug	3
UVQSJ001655.68+054822.9	LCO	BCS	2014 Aug	3

**Note.**

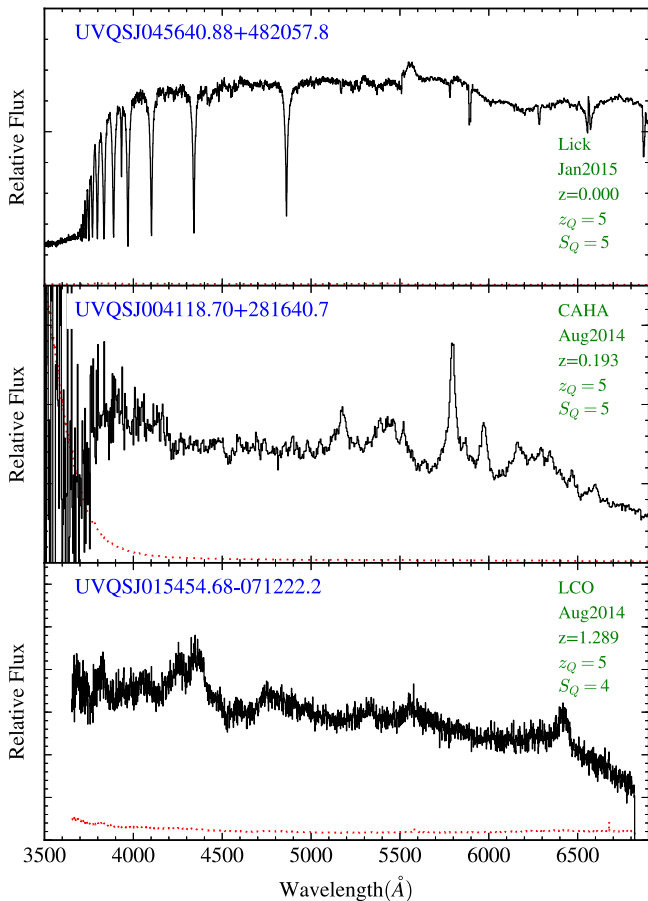
<sup>a</sup> Spectral quality: 0—Too poor for analysis; 5—Excellent.

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

#### 4. REDSHIFT ANALYSIS

To estimate the redshift of each source, we employed modified versions of the SDSS IDLUTILS software designed to measure quasar redshifts in that survey (Schneider

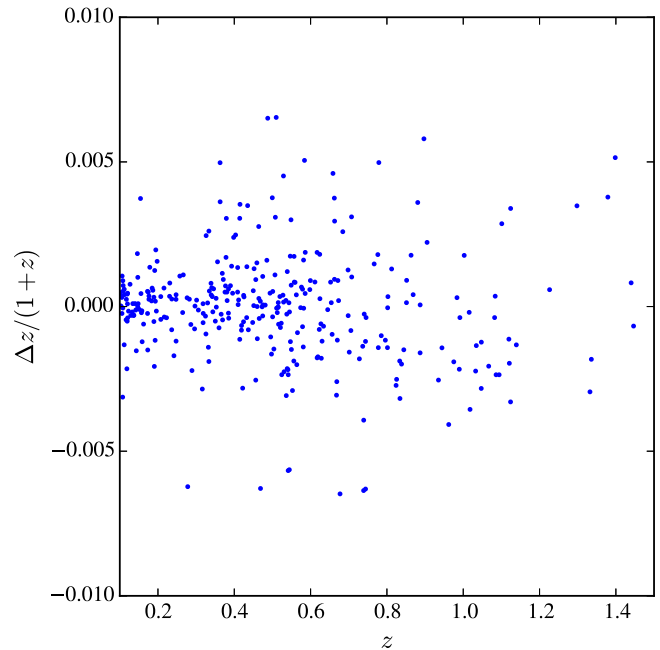
et al. 2010). Specifically, we smoothed the quasar eigenspectra of SDSS (file: spEigenQSO-55732.fits) to match the spectral resolution from each of our instruments and then fit these



**Figure 3.** Characteristic spectra of the UVQS DR1 data release. From top to bottom, we show examples of a Galactic star, a low- $z$  AGN, and a  $z > 1$  quasar. The red dotted lines show an estimate of the  $1\sigma$  uncertainties.

eigenspectra to each spectrum, minimizing  $\chi^2$ . The algorithms provide the best redshift, the model eigenvalues, and a statistical estimate of the redshift uncertainty  $\sigma(z)$ .

All of the 1D spectra were visually inspected by at least two authors using a custom GUI to assess the spectra quality. In parallel, we assessed the redshift measurement by examining the best fit to the data. As necessary ( $\sim 30\%$  of the cases), we performed our own estimation of the redshift by identifying standard AGN emission features (primarily Mg II and H $\beta$ ). We then refitted templates to the data using a restricted redshift interval. We assessed the final redshift estimate based on the data quality and the number of spectral features identified and assigned a numerical quality assessment  $Z\_QUAL$  with a scale of 0 (no estimate possible) to 5 (excellent estimate). Typically, sources with one prominent emission feature with a high-confidence assignment were given  $Z\_QUAL = 3$ . The majority of these are AGNs with  $z \approx 0.5$  where the Mg II emission line occurs at  $\lambda \approx 4000 \text{ \AA}$  and the expected H $\beta$  emission feature falls redward of our spectral coverage. Many of these spectra show weak Balmer emission (e.g., H $\gamma$ ) and/or continuum features that give high confidence to the reported redshift. Furthermore, associating the detected feature with another emission line (e.g., C III] ) is strongly disfavored due to the non-detection of other, expected features. When multiple emission features were detected at a common redshift, the quality of the redshift determinations is given a 4 or 5 on our scale. From the total candidate list (Tables 1 and 2), we measured a high-quality redshift ( $Z\_QUAL \geq 3$ ) for 1121 unique sources.



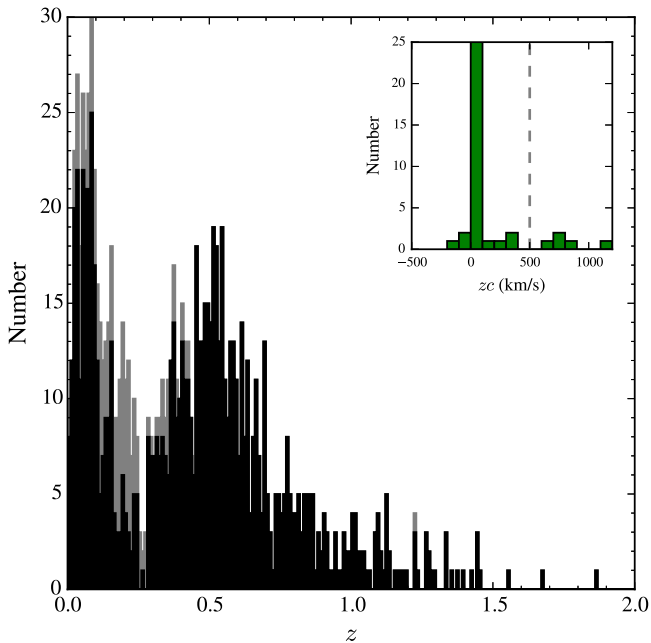
**Figure 4.** Redshift differences between measurements from our UVQS spectroscopy and the values listed in the MILLIQUAS catalog. With the exception of a few outliers (described in the text), there is very good agreement (rms  $\approx 0.002$ ).

In the following we assume that every source with a recessional velocity  $v_r \equiv zc < 500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  is “Galactic,” which we associate with the Galaxy and members of the Local Group. This included sources where the eigenspectra fits were poor yet a low  $v_r$  was indisputable (e.g., stars). Many of these were assigned  $z = 0$  exactly. The remainder of UVQS sources are assumed to be extragalactic AGNs, and are presented in Table 4. We caution, however, that we have neither assessed the relative line-fluxes of these sources nor assessed the widths of emission lines to confirm AGN activity. On the other hand, every source has a  $W1 - W2$  color in excess of 0.6 mag and therefore has a high probability of containing an AGN.<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, nearly all of these sources exhibit at least one broad emission feature that is indicative of an AGN.

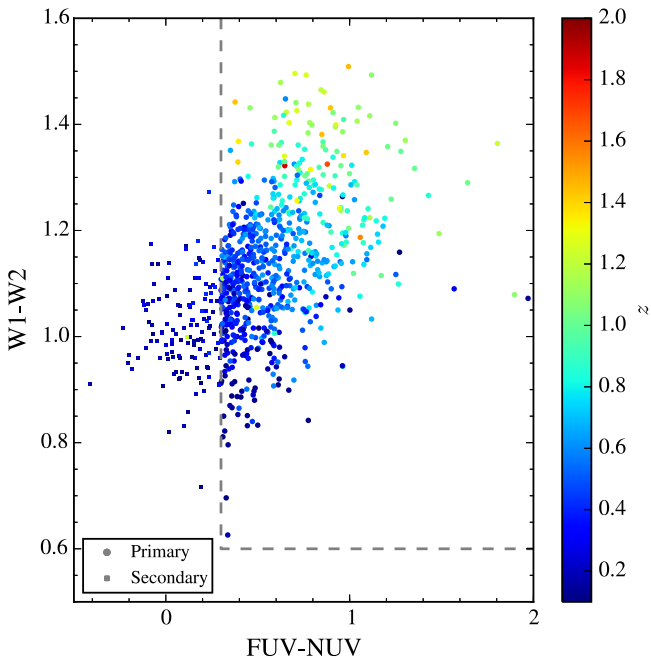
For the redshift uncertainty of the extragalactic sources, we have adopted the larger of  $\sigma(z)$  derived from the eigenspectra analysis and 0.003. The latter value represents a systematic uncertainty from our procedure and also allows for the uncertainties in deriving a systemic redshift from broad, far-UV emission lines (e.g., Richards et al. 2002). We note, however, that many of the sources with  $z < 0.5$  exhibit [O III] emission that may provide a smaller redshift uncertainty.

To assess the quality of our redshift estimates, we have compared our values against the Million Quasar Catalog (MILLIQUAS; v4.5) compiled by Flesch (2015). We restricted the MILLIQUAS sample to sources with spectroscopic redshifts (TYPE = A or Q) and we cross-matched in R.A., decl. to a 5 arcsec radius. In our first assessment, we noted two sources with a very large redshift difference: UVQSJ000856.77–235317.5 and UVQSJ231148.97+353541.4. In each of our spectra, there is a single broad emission feature. For UVQSJ000856.77–235317.5, we had

<sup>9</sup> The obvious exception will be chance superpositions of two sources, which we estimate to be a very rare occurrence ( $< 1\%$ ).

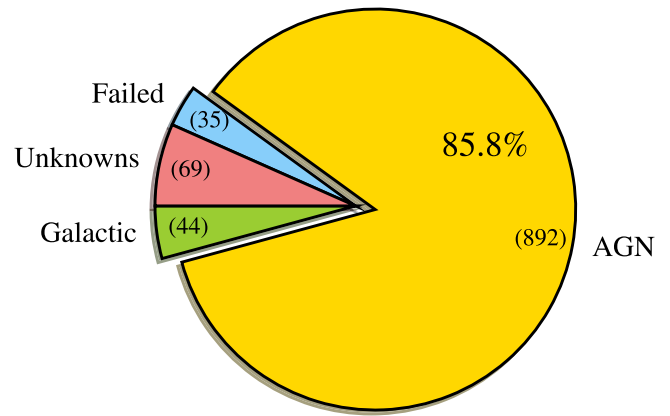


**Figure 5.** Redshift histogram of all sources with  $Z\_QUAL > 3$  from the UVQ DR1 database. The primary candidates (black) are dominated by sources at  $z > 0.4$  with a tail to nearly 2. In contrast, the secondary candidates (gray) are confined to  $z < 0.5$  and are primarily at  $z < 0.2$ . These results further highlight the efficacy of our primary FUV–NUV criterion. The inset shows the recession velocities  $v_r \equiv zc$  of sources with  $v_r \approx 0 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . We associate all sources with  $v_r < 500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  with the Local Group.



**Figure 6.** Near-IR and UV colors of the UVQS DR1 AGNs from the primary (circles) and secondary (square) candidate lists. The AGNs show a systematic reddening of both colors with increasing redshift. The near-IR evolution is related to a  $k$ -correction, whereas we believe the UV evolution is dominated by an increasing average opacity to Lyman limit absorption.

initially identified the feature as C III] emission, yet corresponding C IV emission is not apparent. Therefore, we revised our evaluation to mark this line as Mg II emission and revised the redshift accordingly; it is consistent with the previously cataloged value. The other source is a similar case with the



**Figure 7.** Distribution of the source classifications for the primary candidates observed in UVQS DR1. The color–color criteria yielded a very high incidence of AGNs. Formally, the reported rate for AGNs (86%) is a lower limit, as we expect many of the failed and unknown sources are also AGNs.

line identifications reversed; we have specified the line to be Mg II emission. If the line were C III], as previously assumed, the quasar should have shown Mg II emission. Given that there are also weak features at the expected wavelengths of H  $\gamma$  and H  $\beta$  for our preferred redshift, we have maintained our estimate for the source redshift.

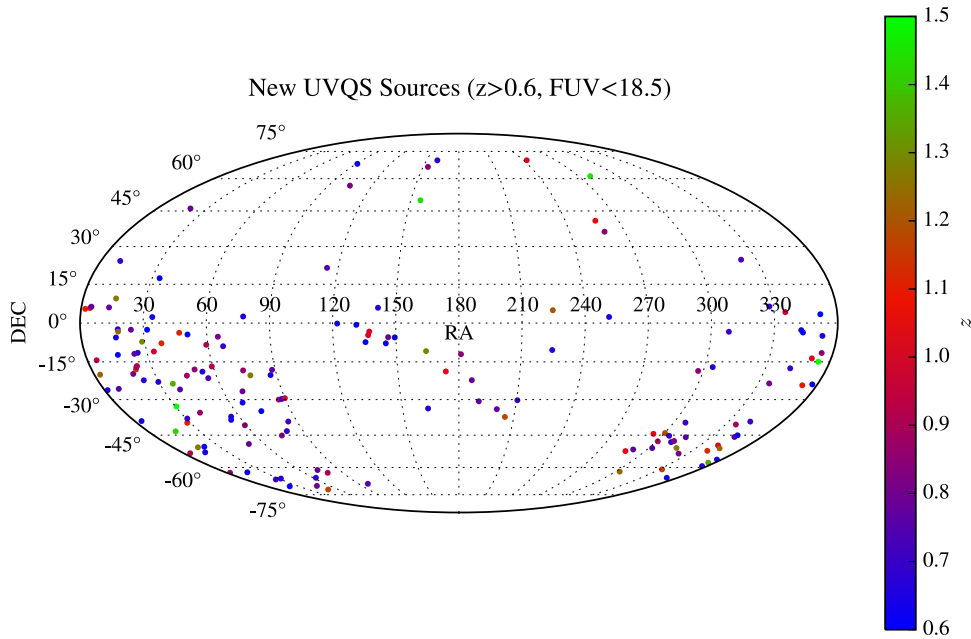
Figure 4 summarizes the differences in redshifts  $\delta z \equiv \Delta z / (1 + z)$  between our measurements and those previously reported in the literature. Ignoring the anomalous cases described above, we measure an rms of 0.002 for the 191 sources with  $z > 0.1$ .

We present a histogram of the sources with well-constrained redshifts ( $Z\_QUAL \geq 3$ ) in Figure 5. For the primary candidates (black), there are two distributions at  $z \approx 0.1$  and  $z \approx 0.5$ . The former are low- $z$  AGNs, while the other set contains our desired targets. These exhibit a tail of redshifts to nearly  $z = 2$ . As expected, the sources drawn from our secondary list of candidates (gray) are primarily at  $z < 0.3$ ; only one has a redshift higher than 0.5. Finally, the inset to Figure 5 shows the redshift measurements corresponding to  $v_r < 1000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . Again, we define those with  $v_r < 500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  to be Galactic, although several could arise from the Local Group or beyond.

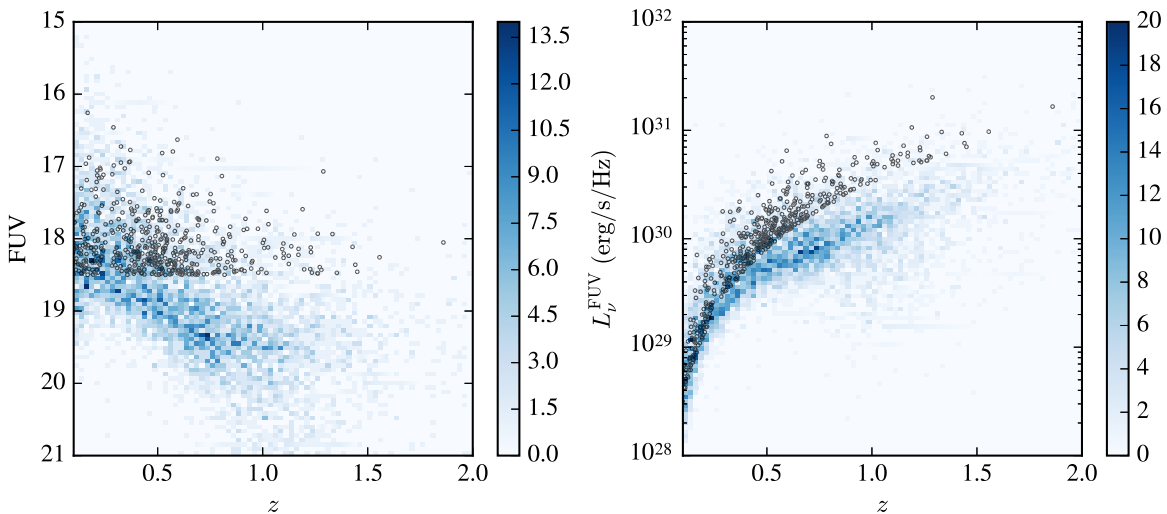
## 5. RESULTS

### 5.1. The UVQS Sample of New UV-bright Quasars

The principal goal of the UVQ Survey is to generate a new sample of FUV-bright quasars at  $z \sim 1$ . This motivated our target color criteria and subsequent observing strategy. With over 1000 sources analyzed, we may reassess the survey design and efficacy. Figure 6 presents the UV and WISE colors of the AGN measured in UVQS DR1, which includes both the primary ( $FUV-NUV > 0.3 \text{ mag}$ ) and secondary ( $-0.5 < FUV-NUV < 0.3$ ) candidates. As the source redshifts increase from  $z = 0.1-2$ , their observed UV and near-IR colors redden. We expect that the UV trend is due primarily to Lyman limit opacity from intervening HI gas, although a flattening of the AGN SED at approximately 1000 Å could contribute (e.g., Telfer et al. 2002; Lusso et al. 2015). The evolution in  $W1-W2$  color must be intrinsic, i.e., it is related to the  $k$ -correction, which shifts from the rest-frame near-IR toward the optical with increasing AGN



**Figure 8.** All-sky distribution of the new FUV-bright AGNs at  $z > 0.6$ , spectroscopically confirmed in our UVQS DR1 survey. The majority of these lie toward the Southern Galactic Pole.



**Figure 9.** (Left) FUV *GALEX* magnitudes for the AGNs in the UVQS DR1 (black dots) compared against the locus of magnitudes from all previously known AGNs (blue, 2D histogram). The sources with  $FUV < 18$  mag would yield good quality COS spectra in a modest orbit allocation. (Right) Specific FUV luminosities with the same symbol and color coding. At  $z > 0.5$ , the UVQS sources represent the most UV luminous AGNs on the sky.

redshift (e.g., Assef et al. 2010; Stern et al. 2012). In hindsight, we recognize that one could more efficiently target  $z \sim 1$  quasars by adjusting the  $W1 - W2$  cut to a larger value (e.g., 1.1 mag).

The efficacy of our survey can be assessed in terms of the fraction of AGNs recovered from the total number of sources observed. These results are presented in Figure 7, restricting to the primary candidates. Of 1040 primary candidates observed, we recovered a secure redshift for an extragalactic AGN for 86% of the objects. The remainder are split rather evenly between Galactic sources, poor spectra, and sources without an evident spectral feature. These are discussed further in the following sections.

Restricting to the  $z > 0.6$  quasars from UVQS DR1 that were not listed in the v4.5 of the MILLIQUAS catalog, Figure 8 shows the sky distribution of these new sources. As expected, the majority of the new discoveries occur outside of

the SDSS footprint, i.e., toward the Southern Galactic pole. Inspecting several of the sources within the SDSS footprint, we find they have good photometry and presume they were simply not targeted due to fiber collisions.

In Figure 9, we compare the FUV magnitudes and estimated luminosities (without corrections for Galactic extinction) of the new UVQS DR1 AGNs. These are compared against previously known sources; specifically, we show a 2D histogram of all sources from the MILLIQUAS catalog lying within 5 arcsec<sup>10</sup> of an FUV-detected source in the *GALEX*GR6Plus7 photoobjall catalog. At  $z > 0.5$ , the UVQS

<sup>10</sup> We caution that a small set of these previously cataloged quasars may have erroneous redshifts (see Section 4 for an example) or are a chance coincidence match to the *GALEX* catalog.

**Table 4**  
UVQ DR1 AGNs

Name	$z$	$\sigma(z)^a$	Z_QUAL <sup>b</sup>	New? <sup>c</sup>
UVQSJ000000.15-200427.7	0.291	0.003	4	Y
UVQSJ000503.70-391747.9	0.652	0.003	3	N
UVQSJ000609.57-261140.5	0.648	0.003	3	Y
UVQSJ000741.00-635145.8	0.559	0.003	3	N
UVQSJ000750.78+031733.1	1.101	0.003	4	N
UVQSJ000755.67+052818.8	1.098	0.003	4	Y
UVQSJ000856.77-235317.5	0.844	0.003	3	N
UVQSJ001015.62-624045.1	0.850	0.003	3	Y
UVQSJ001121.73-200212.1	1.226	0.003	4	Y
UVQSJ001155.60-240438.8	0.767	0.003	3	N
UVQSJ001521.62-385419.1	0.633	0.003	3	Y
UVQSJ001637.90-054424.8	0.074	0.003	5	Y
UVQSJ001641.88-312656.6	0.360	0.003	5	N
UVQSJ001653.66-530932.6	0.914	0.003	3	Y
UVQSJ001655.68+054822.9	1.060	0.003	3	Y
UVQSJ001705.14-312536.4	0.838	0.003	3	N
UVQSJ001753.32-142310.9	0.945	0.003	3	Y
UVQSJ001859.75+061931.9	0.767	0.003	3	Y
UVQSJ001903.85+423809.0	0.113	0.003	5	Y
UVQSJ002049.31-253829.0	0.645	0.003	3	N
UVQSJ002051.30-190126.8	0.962	0.003	3	N

**Notes.**

<sup>a</sup> Redshift uncertainty was derived from a template fit to the spectrum. We report a minimum redshift error of 0.003 from systematic uncertainties.

<sup>b</sup> Redshift quality: 0—No constraint, 3—Confident, 5—Excellent.

<sup>c</sup> Source is greater than 10 arcsec offset any quasar in the MILLIQUAS catalog (v4.5) with a published spectroscopic redshift.

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

DR1 AGNs are among the brightest and most luminous FUV sources known. A follow-up analysis studying the Eddington ratio, host galaxies, and galactic environment of these extreme sources could be valuable. Given the high efficiency of our survey, we expect that the community has now identified nearly every FUV-bright quasar on the sky. The only exceptions will be within the areas not surveyed by *GALEX* and the few lucky sources that shine through the dust of the Galactic plane.

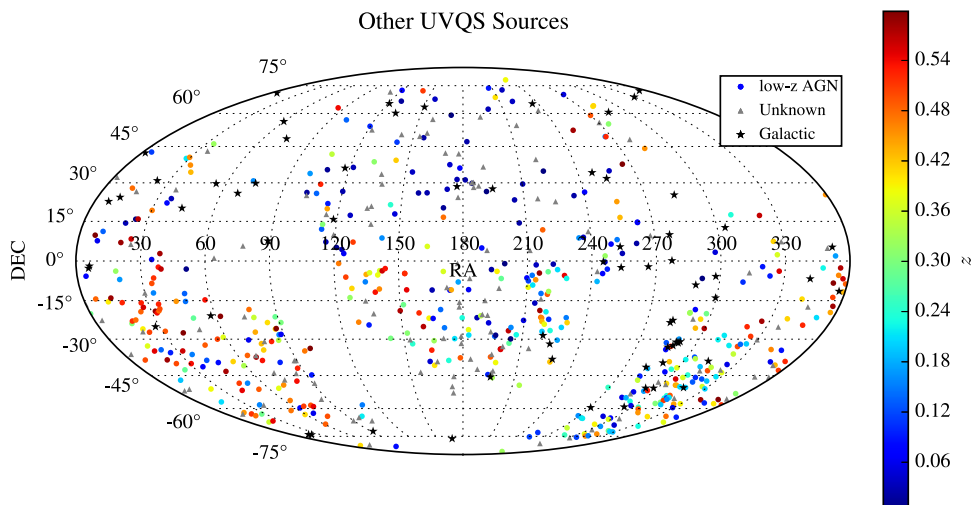
One of the most luminous quasars from our survey, UVQSJ015454.68–071222.2 ( $z = 1.289$ , FUV = 17.07 mag; Figure 3), has an interesting history that is worth relating. This source was cataloged in 1962 by Haro & Luyten as PHL 1228 (Haro & Luyten 1962). Based on its color and coordinates, those authors identified the source as a candidate faint blue halo star toward the South Galactic pole. Indeed, a number of their candidates have since been confirmed as extragalactic AGNs. Clearly, a systematic redshift survey of the complete PHL catalog is warranted.

**5.2. Other Sources**

Figure 10 shows an all-sky plot of the other UVQS sources: AGNs at  $z < 0.6$ , sources with good spectra but without a precise redshift, and Galactic sources. Not surprisingly, the latter are primarily located near the Galactic plane. In DR1, we observed 66 sources satisfying our color criteria (including 24 with FUV–NUV < 0.3 mag) whose spectra yield a recessional velocity  $v_r < 500$  km s<sup>-1</sup>. These are listed in Table 5. Spectra for a representative set are shown in Figure 11. These objects include hot stars, white dwarfs, planetary nebulae, and Herbig Ae/Be stars, all of which have high surface temperatures explaining their high UV fluxes. It is more difficult, however, to explain their W1 – W2 colors. Several of the sources have *WISE* fluxes near their detection limit, i.e., poor photometry may explain their inclusion. Another set has substantial extinction ( $E(B - V) > 0.3$  mag). The remainder, however, may be chance superpositions with a low-mass star. Finally, we note that from the full set of Galactic sources we identify a small sample with highly unusual spectra (e.g., Margon et al. 2016).

There are 93 sources with a good quality spectrum (SPEC\_QUAL  $\geq 3$ ) for which we cannot recover a secure redshift. The majority of these have been previously cataloged as blazars (or BL Lac objects). Examining Figure 10, we note these sources are distributed across the sky, consistent with an extragalactic origin. Table 6 lists the sample of these unknowns.

Finally, 48 of the brightest primary candidates (FUV < 17.5 mag) went unobserved. Nearly all of these are well resolved in the SDSS or DSS imaging and were dismissed as having

**Figure 10.** All-sky distribution of sources other than  $z > 0.6$  AGNs drawn from our UVQS DR1 data set.



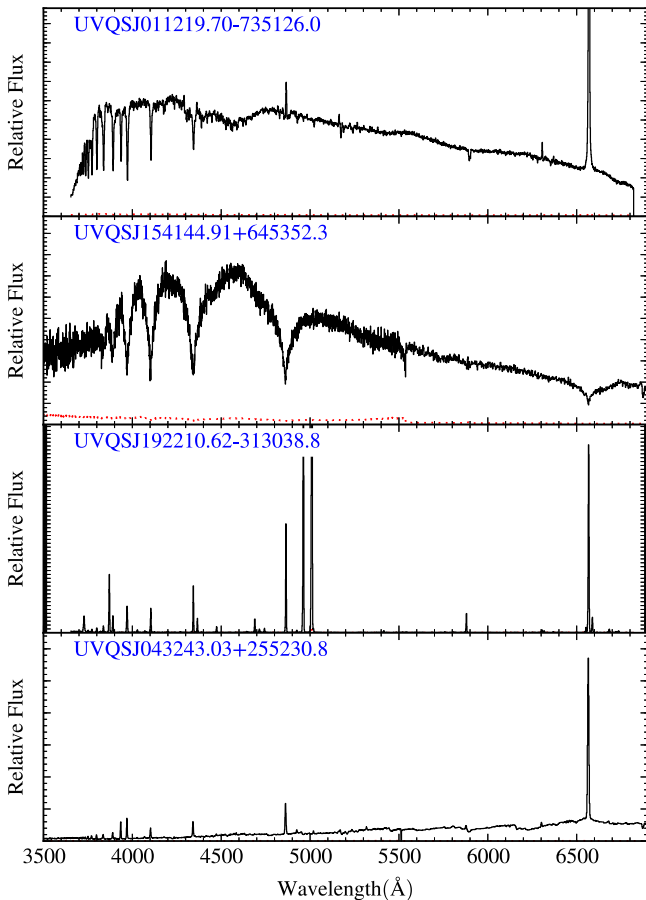
**Table 5**  
UVQ DR1 Galactic Sources

Name	$l$ ( $^{\circ}$ )	$b$ ( $^{\circ}$ )	$W_1$ (mag)	$W_2$ (mag)	$E(B - V)$ (mag)
UVQSJ000717.69+421646.6	114.2718	-19.8486	12.44	11.51	0.07
UVQSJ002255.11-024418.7	106.0850	-64.6733	13.25	12.12	0.03
UVQSJ002324.11+704009.9	120.5946	7.9250	7.28	6.58	0.95
UVQSJ002452.54-015335.4	107.6594	-63.9745	9.56	8.69	0.03
UVQSJ002715.37+224158.1	115.6634	-39.8307	13.15	11.96	0.04
UVQSJ004433.61+241919.7	120.9291	-38.5229	11.41	10.81	0.05
UVQSJ011219.70-735126.0	300.9427	-43.1902	9.66	8.52	0.04
UVQSJ012138.72-735841.0	300.0898	-42.9831	9.98	9.31	0.05
UVQSJ013450.10+305445.0	133.7961	-31.0421	14.86	13.79	0.05
UVQSJ015159.68-250314.9	207.6540	-76.2551	17.82	16.34	0.01
UVQSJ025637.57+200537.2	158.9238	-33.8856	7.84	7.22	1.24
UVQSJ033900.56+294145.6	161.1830	-20.4629	7.61	6.83	0.22
UVQSJ035056.00-204815.9	214.1511	-48.7234	9.66	9.02	0.07
UVQSJ035859.45+561112.5	146.9221	2.3142	5.43	4.36	0.96
UVQSJ043243.03+255230.8	172.8867	-14.8704	6.25	5.48	1.37
UVQSJ045640.88+482057.8	158.6602	3.2547	8.55	7.84	0.65
UVQSJ045846.26+295036.7	173.4658	-7.9023	4.87	3.93	0.54
UVQSJ055504.39+073650.6	199.5921	-8.8793	11.93	11.21	0.59
UVQSJ060819.93-715737.4	282.5738	-29.0191	13.15	11.11	0.09
UVQSJ074955.94+355630.0	184.2155	26.7155	14.47	13.22	0.05
UVQSJ075320.02+154647.6	205.2586	20.6404	10.04	9.04	0.03
UVQSJ080430.46+645952.8	151.2065	32.0840	8.93	7.84	0.05
UVQSJ084551.18+600914.1	156.3057	37.4128	17.17	16.43	0.08
UVQSJ100201.71+631122.0	148.2491	44.7185	14.69	14.02	0.02
UVQSJ110923.71-762320.9	296.9168	-14.7238	7.23	6.47	0.68
UVQSJ114758.55+283156.2	203.5315	75.9099	16.31	15.60	0.02
UVQSJ125927.77+273810.5	49.3078	88.1476	13.89	13.09	0.01
UVQSJ130340.80-453722.7	305.1720	17.1955	14.82	13.78	0.09
UVQSJ144109.61-283020.9	330.3496	28.4600	16.15	15.48	0.10
UVQSJ145840.40-315439.7	332.1683	23.6398	16.26	15.63	0.14
UVQSJ151250.86-380731.6	331.3257	16.8283	10.86	9.68	0.11
UVQSJ154144.91+645352.3	99.5381	43.7046	14.68	13.86	0.03
UVQSJ162104.41-001610.7	13.3195	32.7354	12.76	11.95	0.11
UVQSJ162954.57+340706.0	55.5065	43.0309	17.65	16.32	0.02
UVQSJ165308.43+052323.2	23.7178	28.6949	15.54	14.48	0.12
UVQSJ165427.11-022700.4	16.2867	24.5149	12.85	11.87	0.28
UVQSJ165528.14+314556.5	53.6062	37.3588	17.07	16.22	0.03
UVQSJ174506.57-020844.1	23.2521	13.6944	11.08	10.04	0.41
UVQSJ180338.08-593009.5	334.2886	-17.4199	16.38	15.76	0.11
UVQSJ182754.20+095854.6	39.2363	9.7232	8.68	7.93	0.18
UVQSJ182847.85+000839.8	30.4732	5.1018	5.18	4.14	2.75
UVQSJ184635.12-232648.2	11.3414	-9.4477	10.20	9.39	0.43
UVQSJ184722.00-412632.5	354.4815	-16.8549	13.24	12.17	0.07
UVQSJ185026.03-223422.9	12.5279	-9.8712	11.81	10.89	0.40
UVQSJ185807.27+251417.3	56.3445	9.8431	15.19	14.44	0.28
UVQSJ190319.80+603553.6	91.0096	21.9990	14.24	13.56	0.05
UVQSJ190535.95-331138.0	3.8947	-17.1953	13.09	12.23	0.10
UVQSJ191423.34-323416.9	5.2059	-18.6908	14.58	13.65	0.10
UVQSJ191628.22-090236.7	27.6472	-9.6415	11.07	10.18	0.31
UVQSJ191652.27-310717.3	6.8342	-18.6662	13.17	12.34	0.09
UVQSJ191723.48-393646.8	358.3460	-21.6053	10.25	9.52	0.12
UVQSJ192210.62-313038.8	6.8718	-19.8639	13.44	12.54	0.11
UVQSJ192420.60-305822.8	7.5794	-20.1116	14.66	13.89	0.08
UVQSJ193037.67-502817.4	347.4837	-26.6214	16.17	15.49	0.06
UVQSJ193625.31-591135.8	337.8759	-28.7204	17.13	16.43	0.09
UVQSJ195006.99-502846.6	348.0512	-29.6809	16.49	15.56	0.04
UVQSJ195151.72-054816.6	34.6144	-16.0731	4.71	3.82	0.16
UVQSJ195838.50-135653.9	27.6059	-21.0742	6.58	5.96	0.33
UVQSJ201508.85+124215.2	54.1969	-12.1123	9.99	9.08	0.18
UVQSJ205321.33-385543.6	3.4324	-39.6203	14.81	13.77	0.05
UVQSJ210229.90-501631.7	348.5034	-41.1883	15.70	15.01	0.04
UVQSJ220030.64+682822.8	108.2571	10.6202	7.39	6.53	0.33
UVQSJ224840.11-064246.4	62.3103	-54.4269	16.75	16.11	0.04

**Table 5**  
(Continued)

Name	$l$ ( $^{\circ}$ )	$b$ ( $^{\circ}$ )	$W_1$ (mag)	$W_2$ (mag)	$E(B - V)$ (mag)
UVQSJ232847.35+051451.4	88.1689	-51.9569	11.52	10.72	0.07
UVQSJ233145.86+720122.5	116.8008	10.1061	16.28	15.29	0.53
UVQSJ234823.76-112802.1	76.4925	-68.4481	16.64	15.86	0.03

**Note.** UVQS DR1 sources with recessional velocity  $v_r < 500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . Reddening  $E(B - V)$  estimates are based on the Schlegel et al. (1998) extinction maps.



**Figure 11.** UVQS DR1 spectra for a representative set of Galactic sources unintentionally observed in our survey. The red dotted lines show an estimate of the  $1\sigma$  uncertainties.

$z \ll 1$ . Three of the sources—J124735.07-035008.2, J221153.89+184149.9, J221712.27+141420.9—went unobserved due to errors in bookkeeping or insufficient observing time. We will endeavor to provide spectra of these sources in our second data release.

## 6. CONCLUDING REMARKS

We have performed an all-sky survey for  $z \sim 1$ , FUV-bright quasars selected from *GALEX* and *WISE* photometry. The majority of these candidates lie toward the Southern Galactic Pole, i.e., outside the SDSS footprint. We confirmed 256 AGNs at  $z > 0.6$ , 155 of which had no previously

reported spectroscopic redshift. Altogether, the UVQS DR1 includes 217 previously uncataloged AGNs with  $FUV < 18 \text{ mag}$ , which are excellent targets for absorption-line analysis using *HST*/COS. Indeed, a handful of these AGNs are already scheduled for Cycle 24 observations. In our second data release of UVQS, we expand the search to NUV-bright AGNs at  $z \sim 1$ .

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