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VVV-WIT-04: an extragalactic variable source caught by the VVV Survey

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ABSTRACT

We report the discovery of VVV-WIT-04, a near-infrared (near-IR) variable source towards the Galactic disc located ∼0.2 arcsec apart from the position of the radio source PMN J1515−5559. The object was found serendipitously in the near-IR data of the ESO public survey VISTA Variables in the Vía Láctea (VVV). Our analysis is based on variability, multicolour, and proper motion data from VVV and VVV eXtended surveys, complemented with archive data at longer wavelengths. We suggest that VVV-WIT-04 has an extragalactic origin as the near-IR counterpart of PMN J1515−5559. The K_s-band light curve of VVV-WIT-04 is highly variable and consistent with that of an optically violent variable quasar. The variability in the near-IR can be interpreted as the redshifted optical variability. Residuals to the proper motion vary with the magnitude suggesting contamination by a blended source. Alternative scenarios, including a transient event such as a nova or supernova, or even a binary microlensing event, are not in agreement with the available data.

Key words: catalogues – surveys – stars: individual: VVV-WIT-04 – infrared: stars – radio continuum: galaxies – radio continuum: general.

1 INTRODUCTION

In the past years, the VISTA Variables in the Vía Láctea (VVV) Survey has scanned our Milky Way (MW) galaxy in the near-infrared (near-IR) searching for variable sources (Minniti et al. 2010; Saito et al. 2012). VVV is a European Southern Observatory (ESO) variability survey, focused on unveiling the three-dimensional structure of the MW using distance indicators such as pulsating RR Lyrae and Cepheids, as well as red clump stars. In 2016 the complementary VVV eXtended (VVVX) Survey (Minniti 2018) started observations, widening the survey area. It is also revisiting the original VVV footprint, thus extending the original time baseline as a result of combining both the VVV and VVVX data sets.

Besides its main goal, VVV has also contributed to the discovery and study of variable sources such as eclipsing binaries, young stellar objects, planetary transits, RR Lyrae, Cepheid variables, etc. Specifically, a search for transient sources such as microlensing events and novae outbursts has resulted in the discovery of a large number of new events in the inner MW (e.g. Saito et al. 2013, 2016; Navarro, Minniti & Contreras Ramos 2017, 2018). Among the targets found as high-amplitude transient sources in the VVV data, some caught our attention because their behaviour does not seem to fit the currently known classes of stellar variability. We named these targets as 'What Is This' (WIT) objects. These rare sources include supernova (SN) candidates in the MW or behind it (VVV-WIT-01 and VVV-WIT-06; Minniti et al. 2012, 2017) and a possible second example of the 'Tabby's star' (VVV-WIT-07; Saito et al. 2019).

VVV-WIT-04 is a transient source located ∼0.2 arcsec apart from the position of the radio source PMN J1515−5559 in the inner MW disc (Wright et al. 1994), discovered in a search for large-amplitude objects in the VVV data (Saito et al. 2015). VVV observations during years 2010–2013 showed VVV-WIT-04 increasing in brightness by $\Delta K_s > 2.5$ mag. Based on the VVV

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Table 1. Archive data for VVV-WIT-04. Observations are limited to long wavelengths. The VVV K_s- epochs presented here correspond to the ones observed simultaneously with the *J* and *H* bands. *WISE* epochs and magnitudes are mean values over 15 (2010 February) and 16 (2010 August) observations taken within approximately 1 d interval (see Appendix B). Radio data are in mJy units. Julian dates for radio observations are mean values.

Filter	Survey	λ_C (μm)	Mag (mag)	Epoch [date (JD)]
Z	VVV	0.878	19.617 ± 0.083	2010 Mar 30 (245 5285)
Z	VVV	0.878	20.035 ± 0.115	2015 May 3 (245 7145)
Y	VVV	1.021	18.582 ± 0.048	2010 Mar 30 (245 5285)
Y	VVV	1.021	18.880 ± 0.078	2015 May 3 (245 7145)
J	VVV	1.254	17.374 ± 0.039	2010 Apr 1 (245 5287)
J	VVV	1.254	17.843 ± 0.047	2015 May 28 (245 7170)
H	VVV	1.646	15.934 ± 0.030	2010 Apr 1 (245 5287)
H	VVV	1.646	16.557 ± 0.047	2015 May 28 (245 7170)
K_s	VVV	2.149	14.732 ± 0.016	2010 Apr 1 (245 5287)
K_s	VVV	2.149	15.318 ± 0.019	2015 May 28 (245 7170)
*W*1	*WISE*	3.35	13.130 ± 0.138	2010 Feb 20–21 (245 5249)
*W*1	*WISE*	3.35	13.843 ± 0.423	2010 Aug 20–22 (245 5430)
*W*2	*WISE*	4.60	12.295 ± 0.119	2010 Feb 20–21 (245 5249)
*W*2	*WISE*	4.60	13.881 ± 0.067	2010 Aug 20–22 (245 5430)
*W*3	*WISE*	11.6	9.481 ± 0.206	2010 Feb 20–21 (245 5249)
*W*4	*WISE*	22.1	7.304 ± 0.286	2010 Feb 20–21 (245 5249)
Passband	Survey	Frequency	Flux (mJy)	Epoch [date (JD)]
4.8 GHz	PMN	4.8 GHz	1990 ± 99	1990 June (244 8057)
4.8 GHz	ATCA–PMN	4.8 GHz	1041 ± 18	1992 Nov 9–15 (244 8938)
8.6 GHz	ATCA–PMN	8.6 GHz	815 ± 38	1992 Nov 9–15 (244 8938)
8.6 GHz	VLBI	8.6 GHz	1463 ± 225	2009 Dec 12 (245 5177)

K_s-band light curve limited to the 2013 season, Saito et al. (2015) suggested that it was a Galactic nova or even a supernova in a galaxy behind the MW.

Here we present an analysis of VVV-WIT-04 based on the VVV/VVVX variability, multicolour, and proper motion data covering 2010–2018. Complementary archive data in the mid/far-infrared and radio aided in the analysis and interpretation. We suggest that VVV-WIT-04 is the near-IR counterpart of the radio source PMN J1515−5559. The variability in the near-IR is consistent with an optically violent variable (OVV) quasar, and can be interpreted by the optical variability shifted towards longer wavelengths. Alternative scenarios are also discussed, none of which are fully consistent with the available data.

2 OBSERVATIONS AND ARCHIVE DATA

The VVV observational strategy consists in two sets of quasi-simultaneous *ZY* and JHK_s photometry, and a variability campaign in the K_s- band with 50–200 epochs carried out over many years (2010–2016). The strategy of the VVVX Survey is similar consisting of JHK_s photometry plus 3–10 epochs in K_s-band.

VVV-WIT-04 is located in the VVV tile d133, towards the Galactic disc. In particular, *ZY* data for this tile were collected on 2010 March 30 and 2015 May 3, while JHK_s observations were taken on 2010 April 1 and 2015 May 28 (see Table 1). In addition to the colour data, a total of 63 K_s-band observations spanning from 2010 March 31 to 2018 April 28 were also taken with irregular cadence.

The standard VVV data are based on aperture photometry provided by the Cambridge Astronomical Survey Unit (CASU) on the stacked VVV tile images (see Saito et al. 2012, for details). Because of a high crowding in the inner disc – where VVV-WIT-04 is located – both colour and variability data presented here are based on point spread function (PSF) photometry performed on the VVV images (e.g. Contreras Ramos et al. 2017; Smith et al., in preparation), unlike the 2010–2013 VVV CASU data presented in Saito et al. (2015). The K_s-band light curve of VVV-WIT-04 combining PSF data from the VVV and VVVX surveys is presented in Fig. 1.

VVV-WIT-04 is located at coordinates RA, Dec. (J2000) = 15:15:12.69, −55:59:32.78, corresponding to *l*, *b* = −37°.869, 1°.432. The position coincides within ∼0.2 arcsec with the radio source PMN J1515−5559 (=LQAC_228-055_001; Wright et al. 1994; Souchay et al. 2015; Gattano et al. 2018). Precise coordinates for J1515−5559 from the Very Long Baseline Interferometry (VLBI) source position catalogue[1] are RA, Dec. (J2000) = 15:15:12.672880, −55:59:32.83821, with errors in the coordinates as $\sigma_{\rm RA}$, $\sigma_{\rm Dec.}$ = 0.67, 0.27 mas (Petrov et al. 2019, and references therein).

A false-colour image of the VVV-WIT-04 area produced from the JHK_s 2010 images is shown in Fig. 2: VVV-WIT-04 appears as a faint point source, much redder than the surrounding field stars. According to the VVV extinction maps (Minniti et al. 2018), the region has a total extinction of $A_{K_s} = 0.77$ mag, corresponding to $A_V = 6.52$ mag, assuming the law of Cardelli et al. (1989). These values are similar to those in Schlafly & Finkbeiner (2011), where $A_K = 0.73$ mag and $A_V = 6.65$ mag.

An archive search at the VVV-WIT-04 position resulted in few measurements at longer wavelengths. Two sets of observations with *Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer* (*WISE*) were secured on 2010 February and August (Cutri et al. 2012, 2013), the latter

[1] http://astrogeo.org/vlbi/solutions/rfc_2019a/

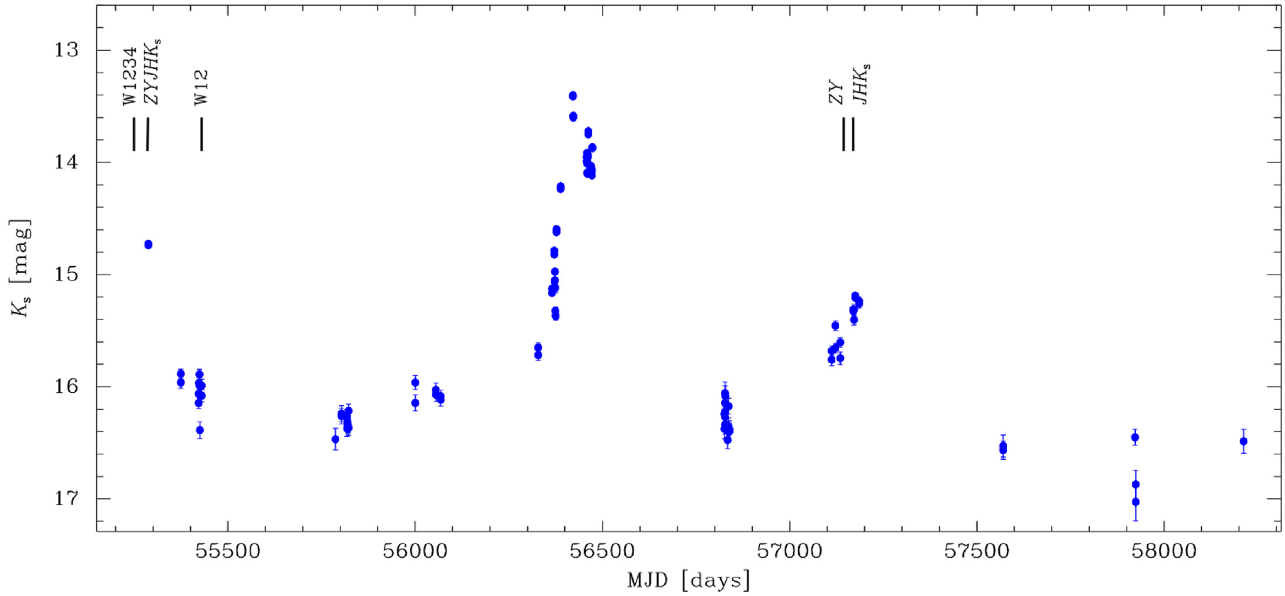

Figure 1. K_s-band light curve of VVV-WIT-04 combining data from the VVV and VVVX surveys. There are a total of 111 data points spanning from 2010 March 31 to 2018 April 3. The two epochs of *Wide-field Survey Explorer* (*WISE*) observations and the epochs for the multicolour VVV data are marked. 'W1234' means *WISE* observations in the four filters (*W*1, *W*2, *W*3, and *W*4), while 'W12' represents *WISE* observations only in *W*1 and *W*2.

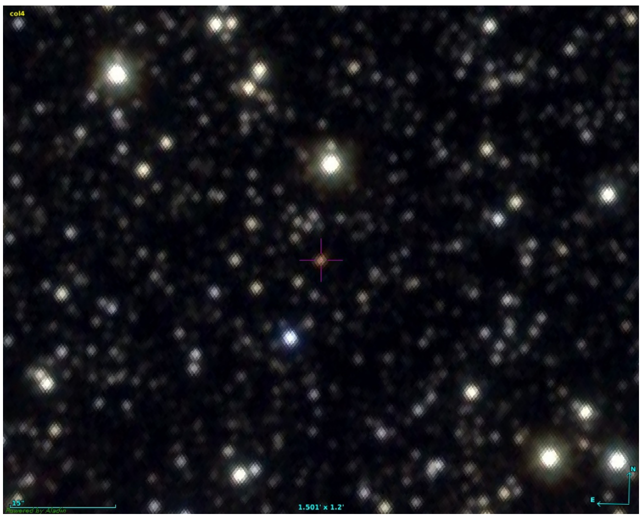

Figure 2. VVV JHK_s false-colour image of VVV-WIT-04 area based on observations taken in year 2010 (see Table 1). The field size is 1.5 × 1.2 arcmin^2 and oriented in equatorial coordinates. North is towards the top and east towards the left. The reticle at the centre marks VVV-WIT-04. We note that the object is the reddest source in the field.

being simultaneous with our VVV data. In the following sections and in Table 1, the *WISE* magnitudes are mean values over a dozen observations taken within approximately 1 d interval by this satellite (see Fig. 5). The complete *WISE* data set is presented in Appendix A. Besides the measurements in the VLBI source position catalogue (Petrov et al. 2019) taken in 2009 December at 8.6 GHz, PMN J1515−5559 was also observed by the Parkes–MIT–NRAO (PMN) Survey (Wright et al. 1994) at 4.8 GHz in 1990 June, and by the Australia Telescope PMN (ATCA–PMN) Follow-up Survey at 4.8 and 8.6 GHz in 1992 November (McConnell et al. 2012).

3 DISCUSSION

VVV-WIT-04 was found serendipitously during a search for high-amplitude variables in the VVV data (Saito et al. 2013, 2016). As shown in Saito et al. (2015), the K_s-band light curve of VVV-WIT-04 covering 2010–2013 seasons is highly variable and increases in brightness by $\Delta K_s > 2.5$ mag during the late 2012 and the beginning of the 2013 season, peaking at $K_s = 13.4$ mag in 2013 May. After this event, instead of decreasing steadily as expected for a putative outburst (or even a microlensing event), the 2013–2018 light curve shows an irregular variability pattern, going fainter than $K_s = 16$ mag in 2014 and then presenting a second peak in 2015 May at $K_s = 15.2$ mag. In 2017 June, the object is as faint as $K_s = 17$ mag, thus presenting a total variation of $\Delta K_s > 3.6$ mag over the 9 yr of the VVV and VVVX coverage.

The colour of VVV-WIT-04 also varies in time. In 2010, $(Y - J) = 1.21$ mag and $(J - K_s) = 2.64$ mag. Assuming the law of Cardelli et al. (1989) and $A_V = 6.52$ mag, $(Z - Y)_0 = 0.49$ mag and $(J - K_s)_0 = 1.58$ mag. Later in 2015, $(Y - J) = 1.03$ mag and $(J - K_s) = 2.52$ mag. A K_s versus $(J - K_s)$ colour–magnitude diagram (CMD) and a $(Y - J)$ versus $(J - K_s)$ colour–colour diagram (CCD) for stellar sources within 10 arcmin radii of around the target position are shown in Fig. 3. Both diagrams show that VVV-WIT-04 does not have typical star colours. In fact, the VVV colours of VVV-WIT-04 are in full agreement with a much reddened quasar, similar to the ones found behind the Magellanic Clouds by Ivanov et al. (2016) using the Visible and Infrared Survey Telescope for Astronomy (VISTA) data, when applied the extinction of $A_V = 6.52$ mag towards the position of VVV-WIT-04 (see Section 2). Its *WISE* colours are also consistent with an active galactic nucleus (AGN; e.g. Mateos et al. 2012; Maitra et al. 2019).

Proper motions from the VVV Infrared Astrometric Catalogue (VIRAC; Smith et al. 2018) show that the residuals to the proper motion vary as a function of the magnitude for the K_s-band observations by up to 100 mas, as shown in Fig. 4. That correlation suggests contamination by a blended, faint source. When VVV-

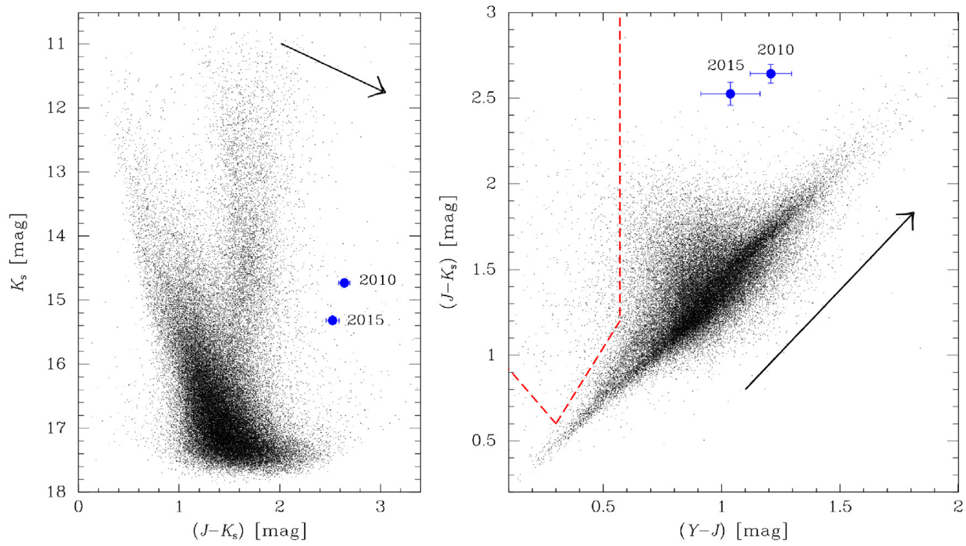

Figure 3. K_s versus $(J - K_s)$ colour–magnitude diagram (CMD; left-hand panel) and $(Z - Y)$ versus $(J - K_s)$ colour–colour diagram (CCD; right-hand panel) for stellar sources within 10 arcmin of the target position. The magnitudes and colours of VVV-WIT-04 in year 2010 and 2015 are shown in both panels as blue circles. The reddening vector associated with an extinction of $A_V = 6.52$ mag (see Section 2), based on the relative extinctions of the Visible and Infrared Survey Telescope for Astronomy (VISTA) filters, and assuming the Cardelli, Clayton & Mathis (1989) extinction law, is also shown in both panels. In the CCD dashed lines mark the region populated by quasars found behind the Magellanic Clouds using VISTA data (adapted from Ivanov et al. 2016). The colours of VVV-WIT-04 are consistent with a much reddened quasar.

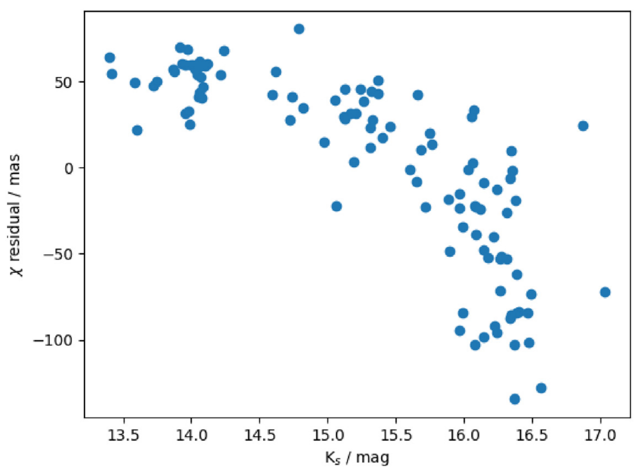

Figure 4. Distribution of the residuals to the proper motion as a function of the magnitude for the K_s-band data. It suggests contamination by a blended source. When VVV-WIT-04 is in the high state it dominates the position, while the contamination is stronger when VVV-WIT-04 is faint, moving the centroid towards the position of the contaminator.

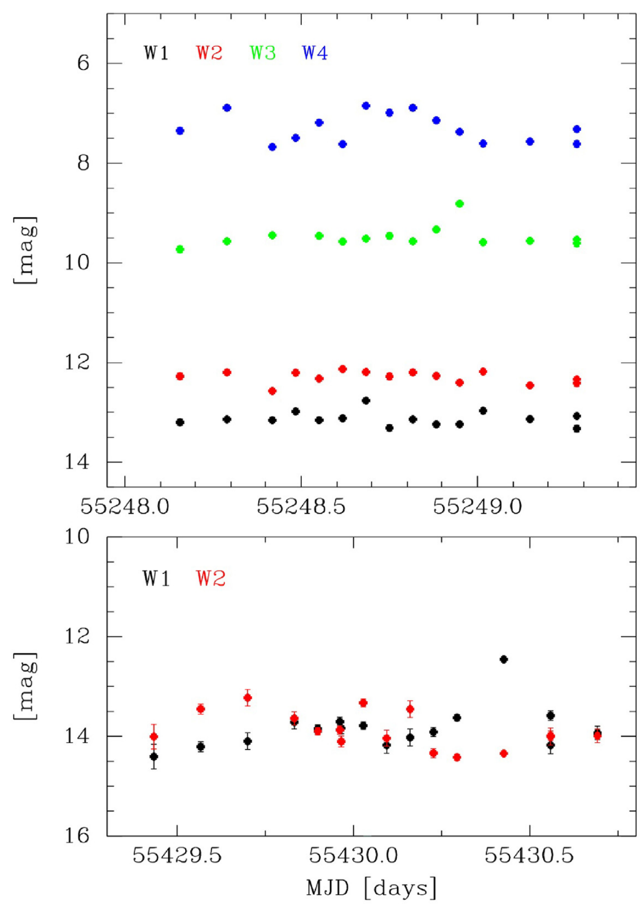

Figure 5. *WISE* light curves of VVV-WIT-04 within about 1 d coverage. Top panel: 2010 February data. Bottom panel: 2010 August data. For some data points, especially in the top panel, the error bars are smaller than the symbols.

WIT-04 is in the high state it dominates the target position. On the other hand, when it is faint the contamination is stronger, moving the centroid towards the position of the blended contaminant source.

The *WISE* observations also present variations in the mid-IR (see Fig. 5). In 2010 February, the object is seen at mean magnitude $W1 = 13.10$ mag with $(W1 - W2) = 0.84$ mag compared with $W1 = 13.84$ mag with $(W1 - W2) = -0.04$ mag in 2010 August.

4 POSSIBLE INTERPRETATIONS

Quasi-stellar radio sources – quasars – are luminous AGNs. These extragalactic objects are intrinsically blue, but due to local or Galactic absorption, sometimes appear as red(dened) point sources, closely mimicking a distant star. Within the quasar's zoo are the OVV quasars, which are a type of rare, highly variable quasars, proposed to be unified under the class of flat-spectrum radio quasars (FSRQs). OVVs are characterized by very rapid variability, high and variable polarization, and high brightness temperatures (Urry & Padovani 1995). A well-studied case is the OVV 3C 279, with multiwavelength coverage over many years (Kartaltepe & Balonek 2007; Patiño-Álvarez et al. 2018, 1990–2002 and 2008–2014, respectively). In the optical and near-IR, 3C 279 presents variations as large as 4 mag on different time-scales.

Close to the OVVs are the BL Lac objects, which are also variable AGNs presenting a spectral energy distribution (SED) similar to FSRQs. BL Lacs and OVVs are blazar subtypes, which embrace all quasars with the relativistic jet closely aligned to the line of sight of the observer. Compared with the OVVs, BL Lac objects are generally less luminous and present a relatively featureless spectrum, with weak emission or absorption lines. In blazars both optical and near-IR variability time-scales depend on the distance from the emitting region to the central engine and range from months to hours, the latter indicating that the source is compact (Ghisellini et al. 2011a,b, and references therein).

VVV-WIT-04 is a point source located ∼0.20 arcsec apart from the position of PMN J1515−5559. Catalogued as the quasar LQAC_228-055_001 (Souchay et al. 2015; Gattano et al. 2018), the archive radio data of PMN J1515−5559 are consistent with non-thermal radiation from a compact radio source as expected for an AGN. As discussed in Section 3 (see also Figs 2 and 3), the colour of VVV-WIT-04 is not a typical star colour, but rather it is in agreement with a much reddened quasar (e.g. Mateos et al. 2012; Ivanov et al. 2016; Maitra et al. 2019), leading us to suggest that VVV-WIT-04 has an extragalactic origin as the near-IR counterpart of PMN J1515−5559.

In the scenario, the near-IR counterpart is highly variable in time as shown by our VVV light curve and the *WISE* archive data. In particular, the VVV light curve resembles the ones obtained by Patiño-Álvarez et al. (2018, see their fig. 3) for the OVV 3C 279. However, 3C 279 is observed to vary also at optical wavelengths, as OVV quasar should behave, while no optical data are available to verify the behaviour of VVV-WIT-04 at shorter wavelengths. The absence of optical data is probably due to the high extinction. In fact, for a galaxy behind the MW, the total extinction as calculated by the VVV maps is probably underestimated.

Our source has an observed magnitude of $K_s = 16.5$ mag in its 'quiescent phase', which corresponds to a dereddened magnitude of $K_s \sim 15$ mag, assuming an extinction of $A_{K_s} = 1.54$ mag (with the caveat cited above). By comparing this magnitude to that of 3C 279 ($K = 10.9$ mag from the Two Micron All-Sky Survey (2MASS) point source catalogue; Skrutskie et al. 2006) we can infer that VVV-WIT-04 is 6.5 times more distant. Based on the *Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe* (*WMAP*) 9-year model cosmology (Hinshaw 2012), and on a redshift of $z = 0.536$ (Marziani et al. 1996), the luminosity distance to 3C 279 is 3.13 Gpc. Were VVV-WIT-04 to have the same luminosity as this prototypical OVV QSO, its magnitude would imply a redshift of $z = 2.46$. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that the variability we detect in the near-IR could simply be the optical variability shifted towards longer wavelengths due to the recessional velocity of the source.

Previous interpretations of VVV-WIT-04 as a transient event such as a nova or even a supernova (Saito et al. 2015) do not agree with the current data, especially because of the irregular behaviour during seasons 2013–2018 – as example of the secondary peak of $\Delta K_s \sim 1$ mag observed in 2015 May – since the remnant of a nova or a supernova is expected to decline in brightness slowly and steadily with time. That would not be the first case where a variable quasar is misinterpreted as a high-amplitude stellar source. For instance, J004457+4123 (=Sharov 21; Sharov et al. 1998) was first announced as a remarkable nova in M31 and later confirmed as a background quasar with a strong ultraviolet (UV) flare (Meusinger et al. 2010).

We have also considered other kinds of sources highly variable in the near-IR. Some microlensing events, for example, can have large amplitudes. The amplitude of a microlensing event is related to the impact parameter (Paczynski 1986), therefore, a considerable increase in the brightness of a source can be explained with this effect. In this case, the curve may resemble a binary microlensing event due to the two most pronounced peaks around MJD 56400 and MJD 57200. To evaluate this scenario we fitted the light curve using the python Light-curve Identification and Microlensing Analysis (PYLIMA; Bachelet et al. 2017). The fit does not follow the observational data either in the base (which is not constant) or during the increases in brightness. Moreover, colour changes are not expected during microlensing events, contrary to the observed in VVV-WIT-04. For these reasons we disfavour the possible explanation of this object as a microlensing event.

5 CONCLUSIONS

We have presented VVV-WIT-04, a variable source identified by the VVV Survey towards the Galactic disc at the position of the radio source PMN J1515−5559. Based on VVV/VVVX variability, multicolour, and proper motion data our analysis suggests that VVV-WIT-04 has an extragalactic origin as the near-IR counterpart of the radio source PMN J1515−5559, with characteristics of an OVV quasar. The near-IR variability can be interpreted as the redshifted optical variability. Residuals to the proper motion suggest that VVV-WIT-04 is blended with a nearby source, probably a faint star in the foreground MW disc. Alternative scenarios, including a transient event such as a nova or supernova outburst as proposed by Saito et al. (2015) or even a binary microlensing event, have also been discussed and are not in agreement with the currently available data, including the variability pattern and colours, which disfavour all the listed hypotheses.

The absence of spectroscopic information makes difficult to unequivocally classify VVV-WIT-04 among the AGN variable subtypes, since the classification is also based on spectral features. For instance, OVVs, BL Lacs, or even ultraluminous infrared galaxies (ULIRGs) could present similar variability behaviour in the optical/near-IR, despite the differences in the luminosity and spectra (e.g. Lonsdale, Farrah & Smith 2006; Ghisellini et al. 2011b; Dexter & Begelman 2019; Gopal-Krishna, Britzen & Wiita 2019).

Compact radio sources are distributed over the whole celestial sphere, including towards the Galactic plane (e.g. Petrov et al. 2019). Similar to VVV-WIT-04 (=PMN J1515−5559), other violent variable near-IR counterparts of radio sources should be present in the data base of recent completed (e.g. VVV and UKIDSS-GPS; Lucas et al. 2008) and ongoing (e.g. VVVX) IR multi-epoch surveys of the inner Galaxy. A search for high-amplitude near-IR variability at the position of radio sources in these surveys should reveal new interesting objects as is the case of VVV-WIT-04.

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APPENDIX A: VVV-WIT-04 K_S-BAND DATA

Here we present the PSF K_s-band data points of VVV-WIT-04 available from VVV/VVVX and used to build the light curve presented in Fig. 1. There are a total of 111 data points spanning from 2010 March 31 to 2018 April 3. The number of data points (111) is larger than the observed epochs (63) because the PSF photometry is performed on the individual VISTA pawprint images instead of on the final VISTA tile image (e.g. Saito et al. 2012; Sutherland et al. 2015).

Table A1. K_s-band data of VVV-WIT-04 from VVV/VVVX used to build the light curve presented in Fig. 1.

MJD (d)	K_s- band (mag)	MJD (d)	K_s- band (mag)
55287.2971	14.739 ± 0.016	56459.0313	13.974 ± 0.010
55287.2978	14.725 ± 0.014	56459.0714	13.980 ± 0.013
55374.1623	15.884 ± 0.041	56459.0866	13.917 ± 0.015
55374.1627	15.962 ± 0.053	56459.0869	13.998 ± 0.010
55422.0077	16.145 ± 0.052	56460.0773	14.089 ± 0.012
55422.0081	16.063 ± 0.054	56460.0777	14.101 ± 0.011
55423.0662	15.965 ± 0.050	56461.1928	13.954 ± 0.013
55423.0666	15.968 ± 0.050	56461.1932	13.934 ± 0.011
55424.0597	15.890 ± 0.045	56462.2526	13.750 ± 0.011
55424.0601	15.988 ± 0.047	56462.2530	13.722 ± 0.010
55425.0361	16.387 ± 0.075	56469.1893	14.031 ± 0.012
55425.0366	16.078 ± 0.056	56469.1897	14.058 ± 0.011
55430.0372	15.991 ± 0.059	56470.1297	14.046 ± 0.011
55430.0377	16.080 ± 0.054	56470.1301	14.051 ± 0.010
55787.1163	16.468 ± 0.098	56471.0304	14.062 ± 0.013
55803.0393	16.262 ± 0.068	56471.0308	14.071 ± 0.013
55803.0397	16.240 ± 0.072	56472.0554	14.073 ± 0.016
55817.9926	16.372 ± 0.071	56472.0730	14.115 ± 0.011
55817.9929	16.267 ± 0.067	56472.0734	14.071 ± 0.014
55818.9870	16.310 ± 0.068	56473.0201	13.865 ± 0.012
55818.9874	16.315 ± 0.086	56473.0205	13.873 ± 0.015
55819.9880	16.342 ± 0.069	56826.0025	16.243 ± 0.095
55819.9884	16.338 ± 0.065	56826.0029	16.377 ± 0.089
55822.0042	16.368 ± 0.067	56826.9796	16.144 ± 0.076
55822.0047	16.215 ± 0.060	56826.9800	16.268 ± 0.086
56000.3317	16.144 ± 0.072	56827.0046	16.342 ± 0.084
56000.3320	15.963 ± 0.062	56827.0050	16.220 ± 0.071
56055.3022	16.028 ± 0.060	56827.0927	16.057 ± 0.100
56055.3026	16.070 ± 0.059	56827.9883	16.083 ± 0.091
56068.2887	16.116 ± 0.056	56827.9887	16.333 ± 0.093
56068.2892	16.085 ± 0.055	56834.0357	16.475 ± 0.080
56328.3548	15.651 ± 0.044	56837.0159	16.356 ± 0.078
56328.3551	15.717 ± 0.049	56837.0163	16.174 ± 0.071
56365.2609	15.163 ± 0.023	56838.9694	16.381 ± 0.078
56365.2613	15.127 ± 0.028	56838.9698	16.400 ± 0.077
56371.3482	14.820 ± 0.018	57112.1651	15.680 ± 0.042
56371.3486	14.787 ± 0.020	57112.1657	15.759 ± 0.055
56372.2801	15.060 ± 0.032	57122.1988	15.456 ± 0.044
56372.2805	15.123 ± 0.031	57122.1992	15.656 ± 0.045
56373.2215	15.050 ± 0.024	57135.1337	15.745 ± 0.056
56373.2219	14.974 ± 0.023	57135.1341	15.605 ± 0.041
56374.2747	15.117 ± 0.048	57170.1658	15.327 ± 0.019
56374.2751	15.323 ± 0.034	57170.1667	15.310 ± 0.017
56375.2302	15.365 ± 0.034	57172.0094	15.403 ± 0.047
56375.2306	15.370 ± 0.033	57172.0098	15.315 ± 0.052
56377.1707	14.595 ± 0.018	57175.0081	15.189 ± 0.023
56377.1714	14.621 ± 0.024	57175.0086	15.206 ± 0.023
56388.4126	14.214 ± 0.013	57184.9903	15.236 ± 0.037
56388.4130	14.236 ± 0.017	57184.9907	15.260 ± 0.038
56421.3793	13.412 ± 0.010	57570.2188	16.528 ± 0.096
56421.3797	13.401 ± 0.011	57570.2192	16.565 ± 0.081
56422.3114	13.600 ± 0.011	57922.1606	16.451 ± 0.071
56422.3118	13.585 ± 0.015	57924.1200	17.028 ± 0.168
56458.1027	13.952 ± 0.011	57924.1204	16.871 ± 0.126
56458.1031	13.988 ± 0.009	58212.3241	16.486 ± 0.106
56459.0309	14.009 ± 0.011		

APPENDIX B: *WISE* DATA

Table B1. *WISE* data of VVV-WIT-04 used to build the light curves presented in Fig. 5.

MJD (d)	*W*1 (mag)	*W*2 (mag)	*W*3 (mag)	*W*4 (mag)
55248.1549	13.198 ± 0.066	12.275 ± 0.055	9.729 ± 0.121	7.350 ± 0.418
55248.2873	13.141 ± 0.055	12.197 ± 0.054	9.566 ± 0.112	6.889 ± 0.220
55248.4196	13.156 ± 0.047	12.572 ± 0.091	9.444 ± 0.121	7.674 ± 0.448
55248.4857	12.983 ± 0.061	12.204 ± 0.066	–	7.493 ± 0.343
55248.5519	13.154 ± 0.054	12.321 ± 0.079	9.456 ± 0.106	7.187 ± 0.348
55248.6181	13.119 ± 0.041	12.130 ± 0.035	9.573 ± 0.133	7.619 ± 0.428
55248.6842	12.764 ± 0.045	12.189 ± 0.053	9.513 ± 0.114	6.848 ± 0.228
55248.7505	13.311 ± 0.065	12.277 ± 0.057	9.457 ± 0.095	6.988 ± 0.240
55248.8165	13.141 ± 0.055	12.197 ± 0.054	9.566 ± 0.112	6.889 ± 0.220
55248.8828	13.241 ± 0.056	12.268 ± 0.063	9.330 ± 0.112	7.143 ± 0.339
55248.9490	13.239 ± 0.050	12.403 ± 0.051	8.813 ± 0.395	7.372 ± 0.469
55249.0151	12.968 ± 0.046	12.180 ± 0.043	9.587 ± 0.118	7.605 ± 0.480
55249.1474	13.136 ± 0.041	12.459 ± 0.059	9.558 ± 0.128	7.566 ± 0.491
55249.2797	13.326 ± 0.067	12.411 ± 0.077	9.605 ± 0.112	7.614 ± 0.413
55249.2798	13.074 ± 0.038	12.337 ± 0.063	9.533 ± 0.118	7.318 ± 0.386
55429.4337	14.407 ± 0.245	14.006 ± 0.292	–	–
55429.5660	14.208 ± 0.103	13.452 ± 0.116	–	–
55429.6984	14.098 ± 0.166	13.225 ± 0.095	–	–
55429.8307	13.716 ± 0.134	13.639 ± 0.186	–	–
55429.8967	13.848 ± 0.077	13.898 ± 0.244	–	–
55429.9628	13.705 ± 0.085	13.872 ± 0.308	–	–
55429.9630	13.836 ± 0.108	14.104 ± 0.212	–	–
55430.0290	13.785 ± 0.079	13.328 ± 0.136	–	–
55430.0951	14.178 ± 0.160	14.037 ± 0.253	–	–
55430.1614	14.023 ± 0.170	13.454 ± 0.121	–	–
55430.2274	13.912 ± 0.090	14.336 ± 0.266	–	–
55430.2937	13.626 ± 0.061	14.422	–	–
55430.4260	12.456	14.342 ± 0.337	–	–
55430.5581	13.583 ± 0.098	13.987 ± 0.290	–	–
55430.5583	14.177 ± 0.172	14.003 ± 0.239	–	–
55430.6904	13.931 ± 0.136	13.990	–	–

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