

# Search for cluster candidates in the UKIDSS database

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**Abstract.** UKIDSS GPS is a deep and high-angular-resolution survey of the Galactic plane in the *J*, *H*, and *K* bands. Using this survey, we searched the inner region of the Galaxy ( $|l| < 10^\circ$ ) for young cluster candidates associated with molecular bubbles (MBs). The latter are observed in the mid-infrared survey GLIMPSE II. The underlying idea is that MBs may be blown out by powerful sources, such as young O and B stars; some of the MBs in the sample are indeed associated with HII regions, a hint of the presence of young stars. One of the major observational problems in the Galactic plane is the high degree of interstellar absorption and its spatial variability. A significant effort is also devoted to quantifying this issue.

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