

Fermi-LAT and its role in the era of time domain astrophysics

Deirdre HORAN on behalf of
the *Fermi*-LAT Collaboration

3rd Astro-COLIBRI multi-messenger
astrophysics workshop,
Institut Pascal, Orsay
16 - 20 September 2024



- Reminder/introduction - *Fermi*-LAT and its capabilities for time-domain astro
- Flare advocate and burst advocate shifts
- Monitored source list
- Lightcurve repository
- Gravitational wave follow-up

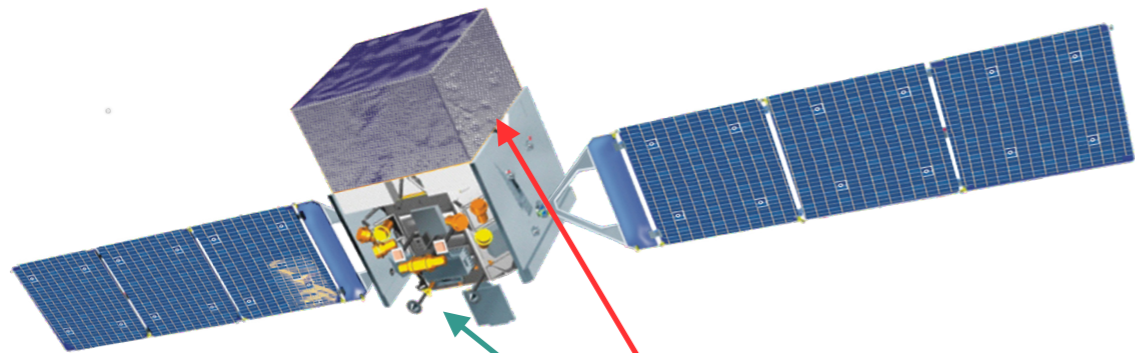
Fermi Mission Overview



The *Fermi* Space Telescope is a "Probe class" mission to study the extreme high-energy Universe

Launch:

- 11 June 2008, Cape Canaveral, Florida
- 16+ years of science!



Two Scientific Instruments:

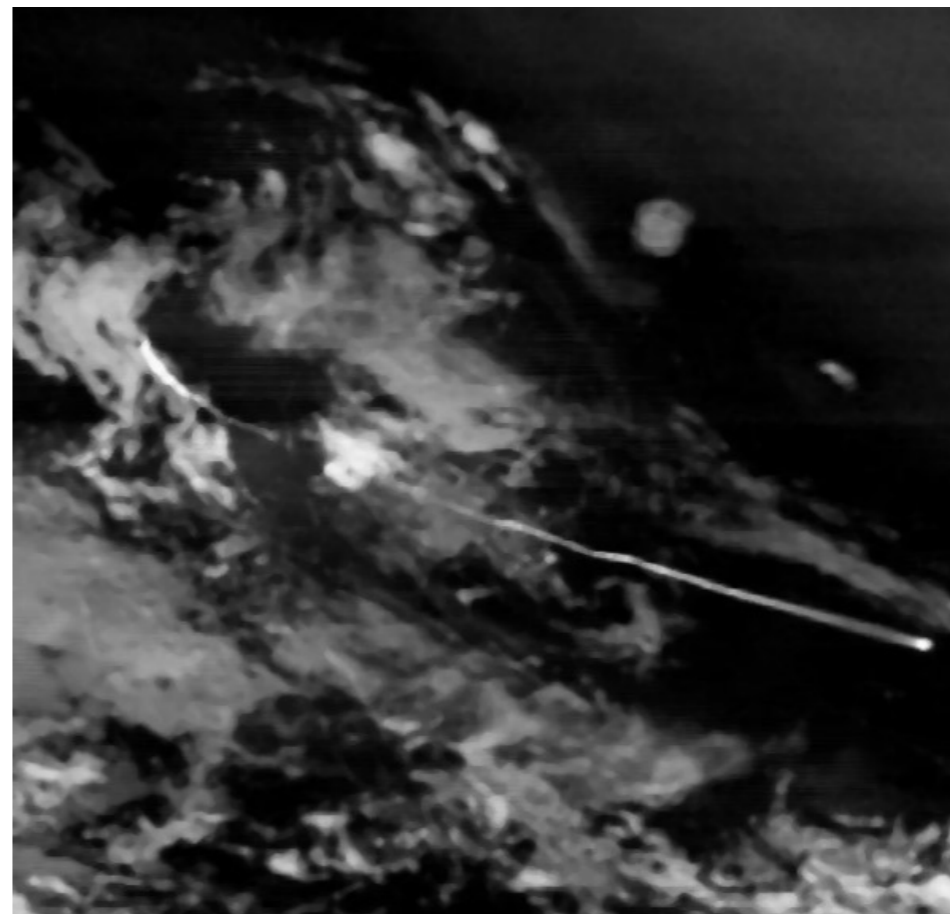
- Large Area Telescope (**LAT**)
- Gamma-ray Burst Monitor (**GBM**)

Energy range:

- 8 keV to above 40 MeV (**GBM**)
- 20 MeV to above 300 GeV (**LAT**)



NASA

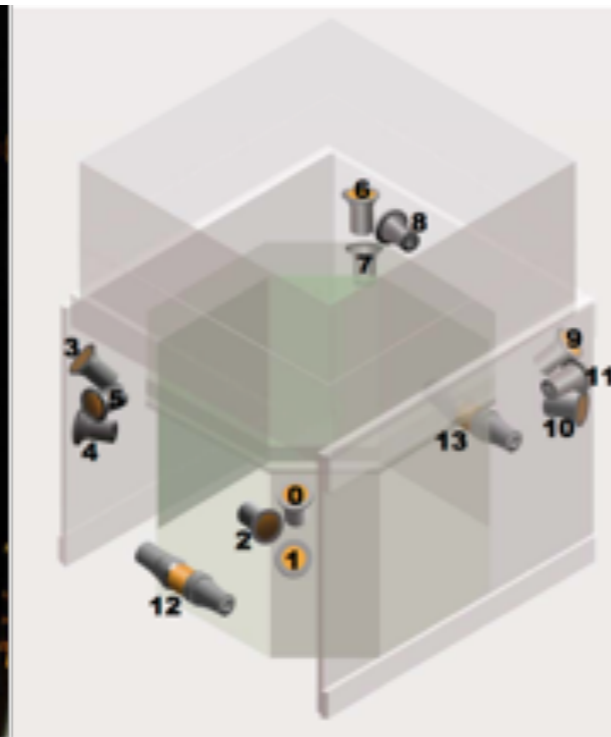
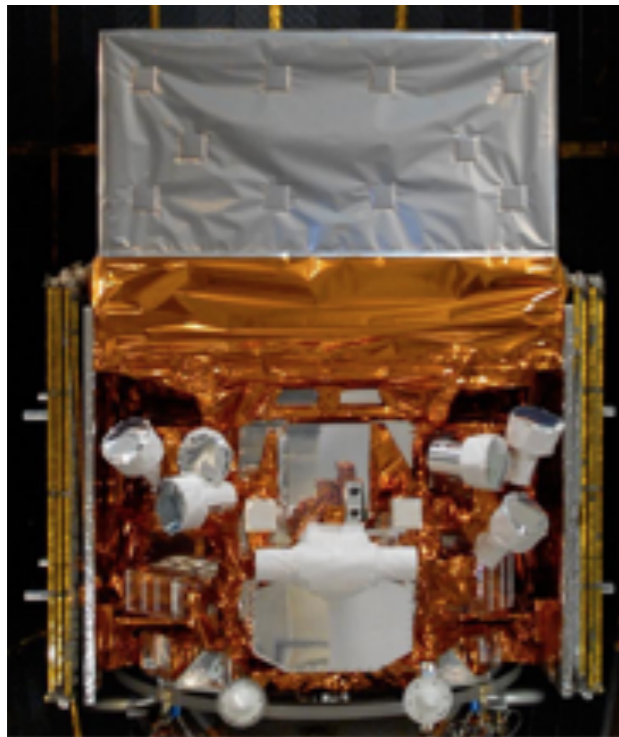


U.S. Air Force/Space
Command/Space-Based
Infrared Systems Wing



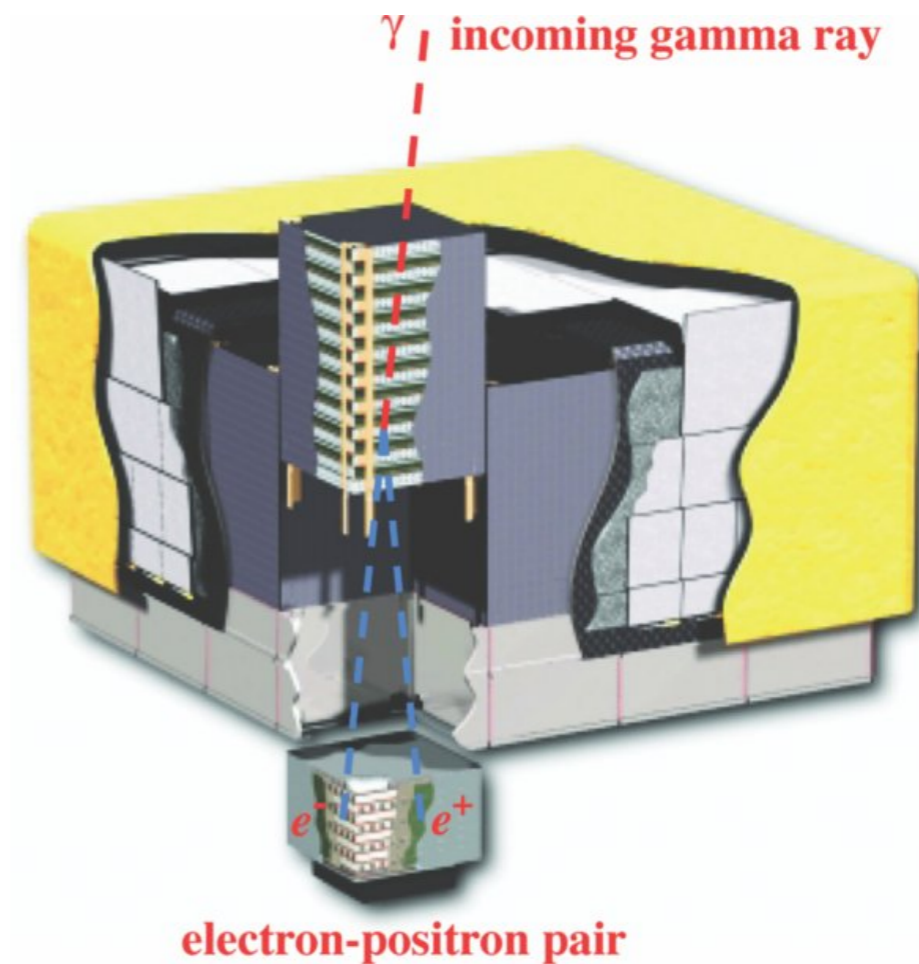
Gamma-ray Burst Monitor (GBM):

- 8 keV to 40 MeV
- Views unocculted sky
- 12 (four sets of 3) NaI detectors - up to 1 MeV
- 2 BGO detectors for higher energy coverage



Large Area Telescope (LAT):

- 20 MeV to more than 300 GeV
- Views 20% of the sky at any instant
- Entire sky in ~3 hrs
- Segmented anti-coincidence shield + silicon tracker + calorimeter





Topical Evolution of the Guest Investigator Program ...

The Fermi Guest Investigator Program provides funding for:

- Analysis of LAT and GBM data
- Supporting observations in other wavebands
- Joint programs include NRAO, NOIRLab, VERITAS, Integral, and TESS
- Complementary theoretical studies
- Analysis methods

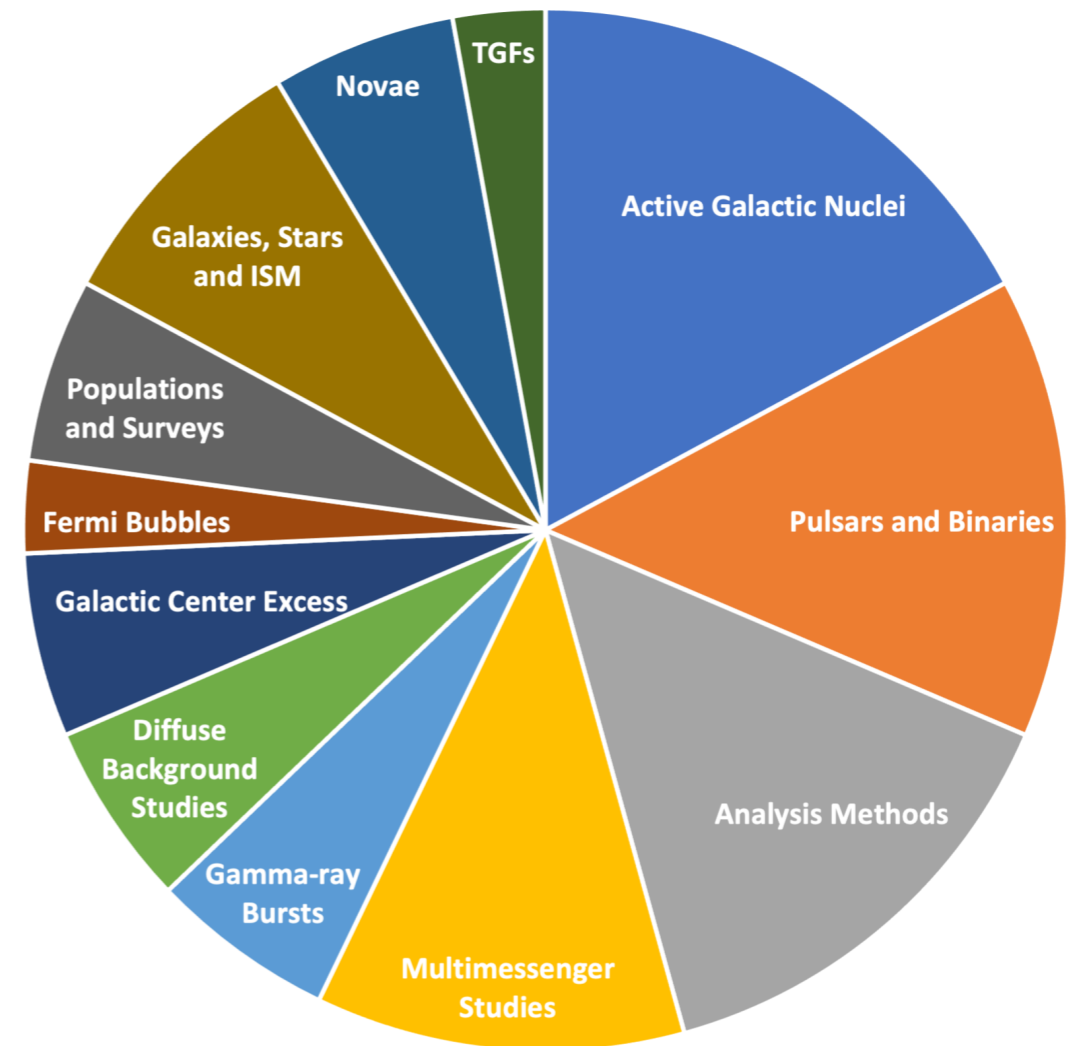
Awarded topics have evolved throughout the mission

- growing emphasis on multimessenger studies and analysis methods

New trend for Cycle 16:

- 11% of proposals incorporate machine learning

Topical Breakdown
(Cycle 16 Selected Proposals)





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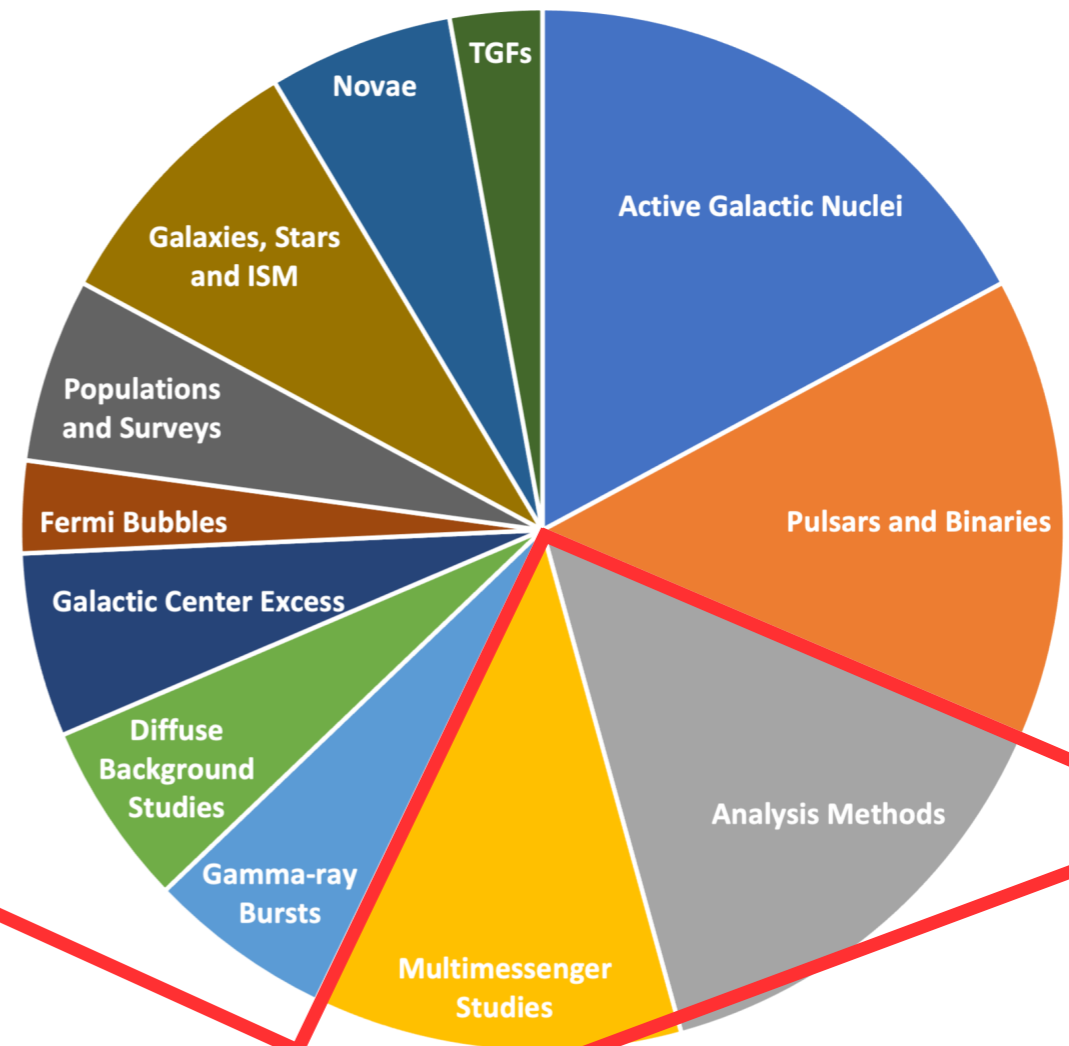
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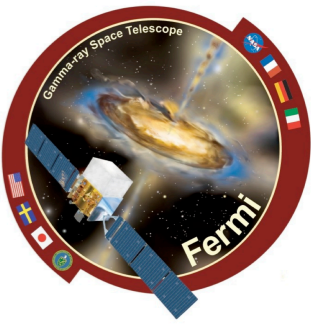
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Fermi at 16 !



Fermi turned 16 on the 11th of June !

- Spacecraft and instrument **performance is excellent** at 16 years!
 - No consumables or rapid degradation of spacecraft or instrument components
 - One solar array drive no longer rotates; modified survey strategy maintains power margin while avoiding loss of observational efficiency
 - Gradual degradation in instrument components is compensated by calibration



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- Orbit outlook:
 - Lifetime of orbit extends into the **mid-2030s**
 - The *Fermi* mission team is preparing for a series of maneuvers to **raise** the observatory **orbit altitude** following the completion of O4
 - Studies underway to raise the observatory altitude to a **circular orbit at ~563 km**
 - a series of 5 maneuvers: 3 for calibration and circularisation and 2 longer burns to raise the altitude
 - The orbit adjustment will lower planning frequency for collision avoidance maneuvers
 - Frequency of maneuver planning for collision avoidance has increased due to increasing number of objects for this orbit
 - Have not had to execute a maneuver since 2012, but planning impacts operations even when the maneuver is waived

Fermi Science at 16 years



The era of time-domain astrophysics!

- Unique and highly dynamic **energy range**
 - 8 keV - >300 GeV provides triggers and observations for a wide variety of energetic astrophysical events

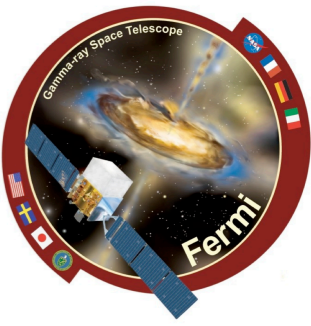
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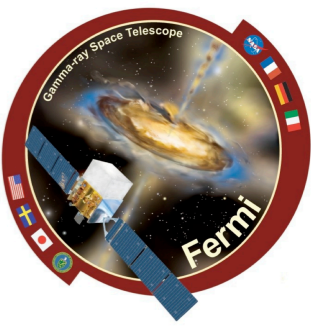
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 - Real-time or near real-time observation data of events anywhere in the sky
 - GBM within 1.5 hrs
 - LAT within ~ 3 hrs (typical time to cover 80% of GW event region 1000 sec)
 - Archival searches **from ms to years available for 16 years** and counting

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 - Team-operated science pipelines generate added alerts and information



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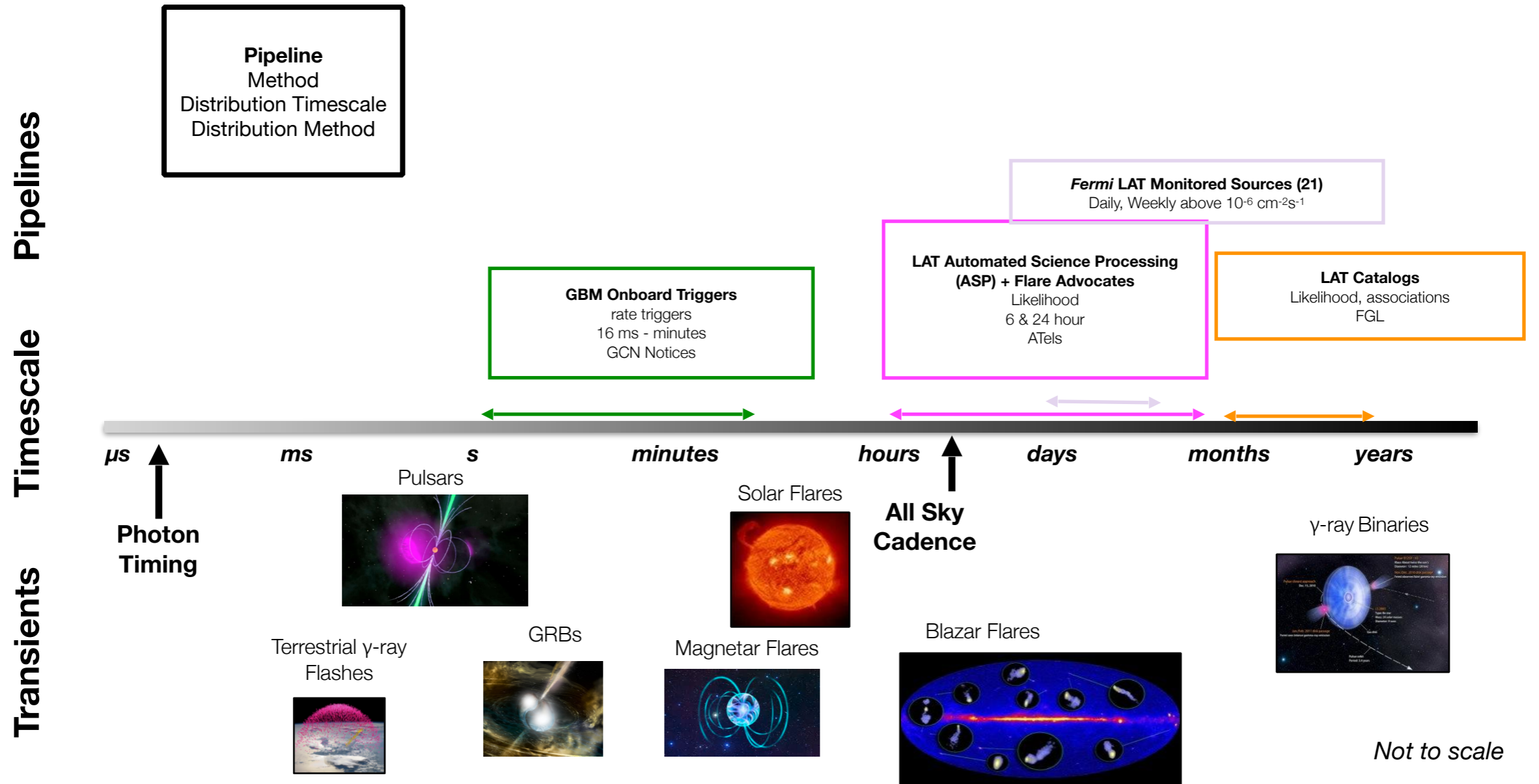
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 - Team-operated science pipelines generate added alerts and information
- **Partnerships** among science support center, instrument teams, MW/MM observational facilities and community enable innovations in analysis and tools

Fermi Science at 16 years



The era of time-domain astrophysics!

Fermi Transient Searches 2008-2009

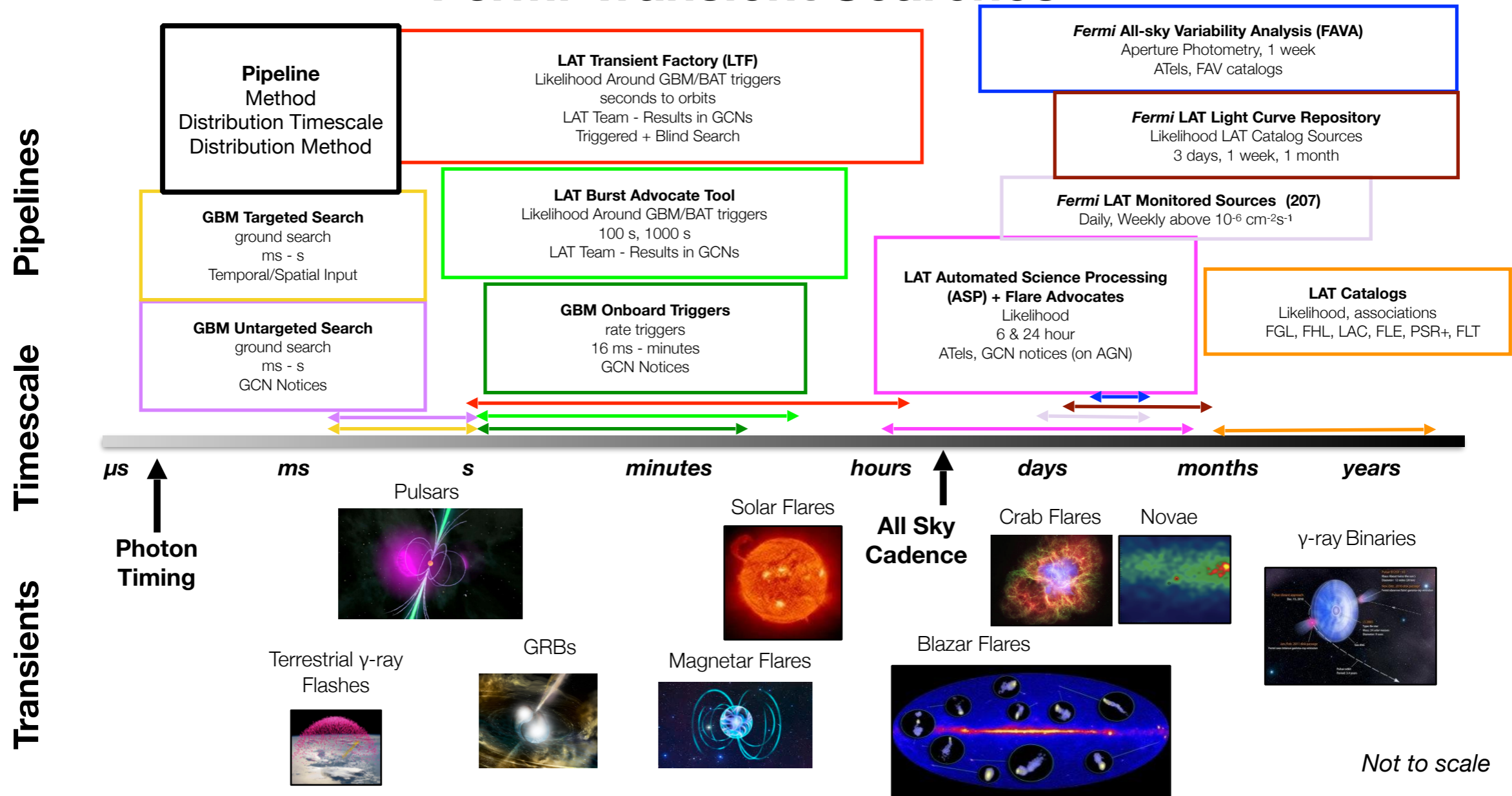


Fermi Science at 16 years

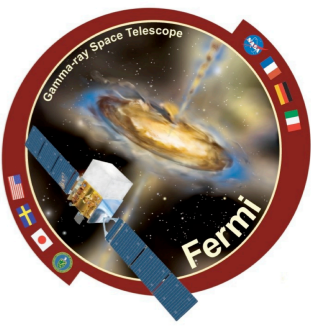


The era of time-domain astrophysics!

Fermi Transient Searches



Flare and Burst Advocates

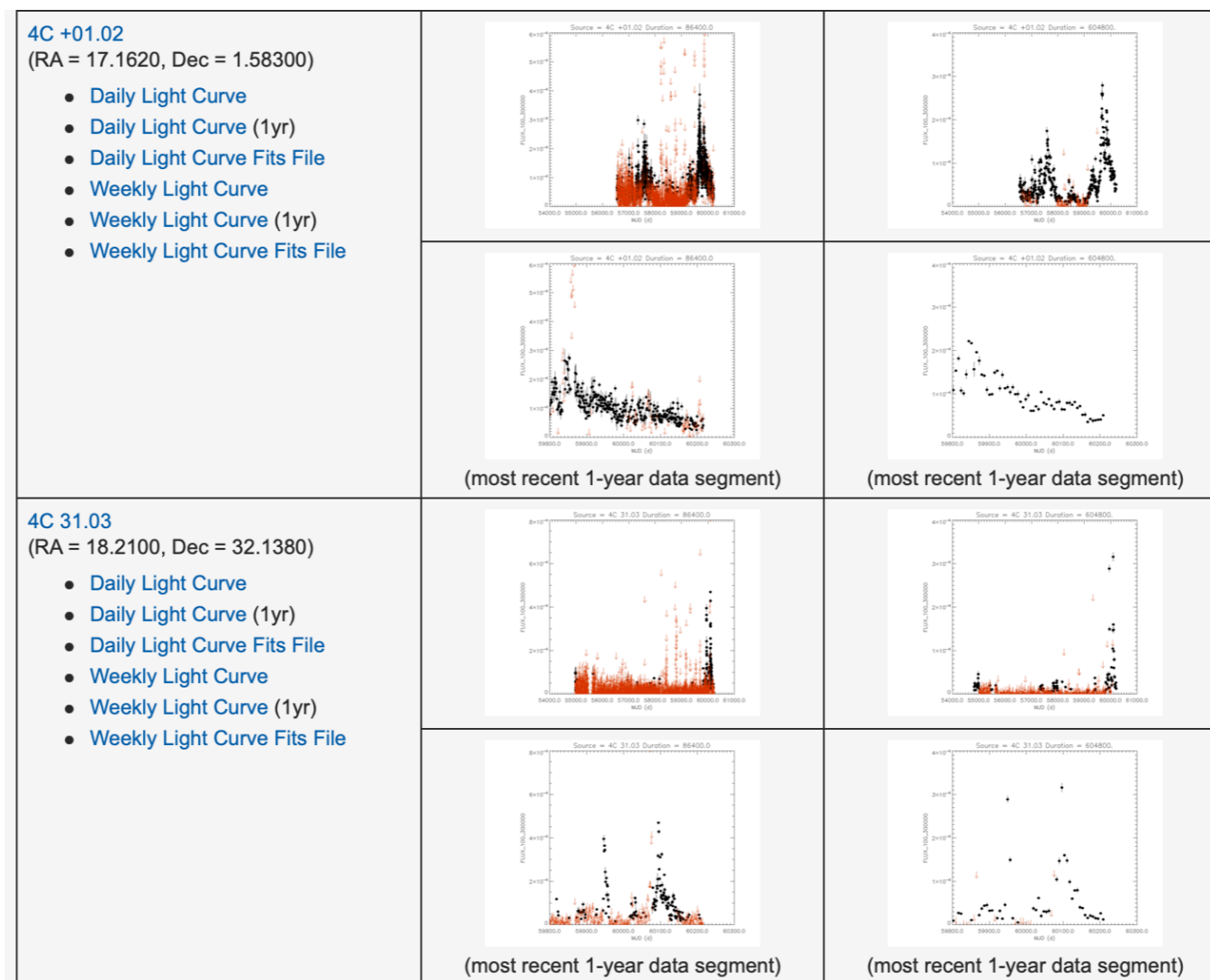


- Flare Advocates:
 - search on 24-hour and 6-hour timescales for flaring activity / new sources
 - alert the multiwavelength community about gamma-ray transients through ATels or GCN
 - trigger MWL observations (ToOs / alert the VHE community)
 - follow up on neutrino alerts
 - follow up on novae
- Burst Advocates:
 - perform dedicated follow-up analysis on any GRB within the FoV of LAT
 - prepare GCN circular

Monitored sources



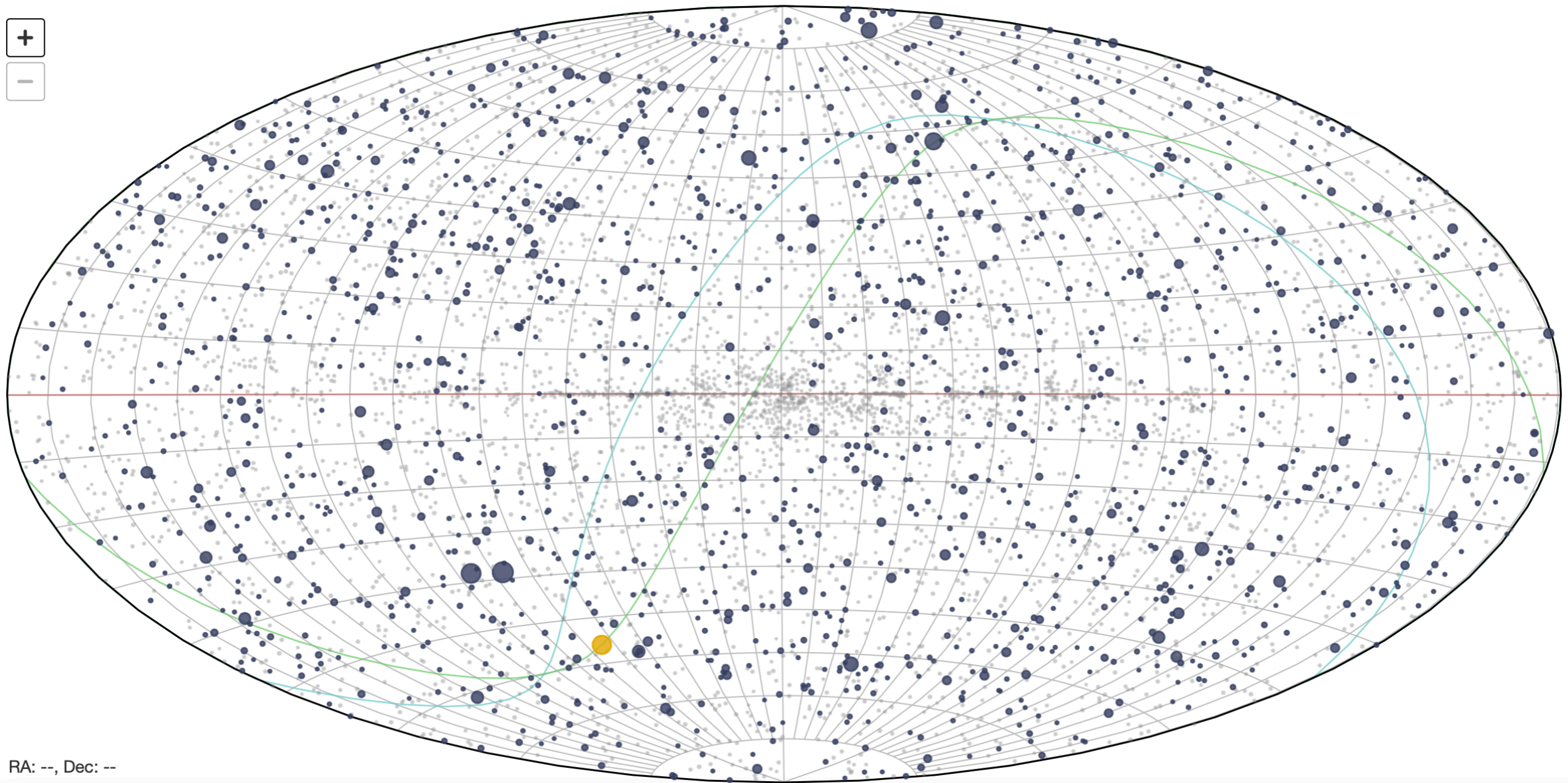
- The *Fermi* LAT table of monitored sources provides daily and weekly fluxes for sources of interest as described [here](#)
- List is updated with new sources regularly (when source exceeds daily averaged flux of $1e-6$)
- Started as a list of **25** - now, there are **207**
- Daily and Weekly fluxes for the monitored source list are sent to the FSSC each day



Fermi-LAT Lightcurve repository



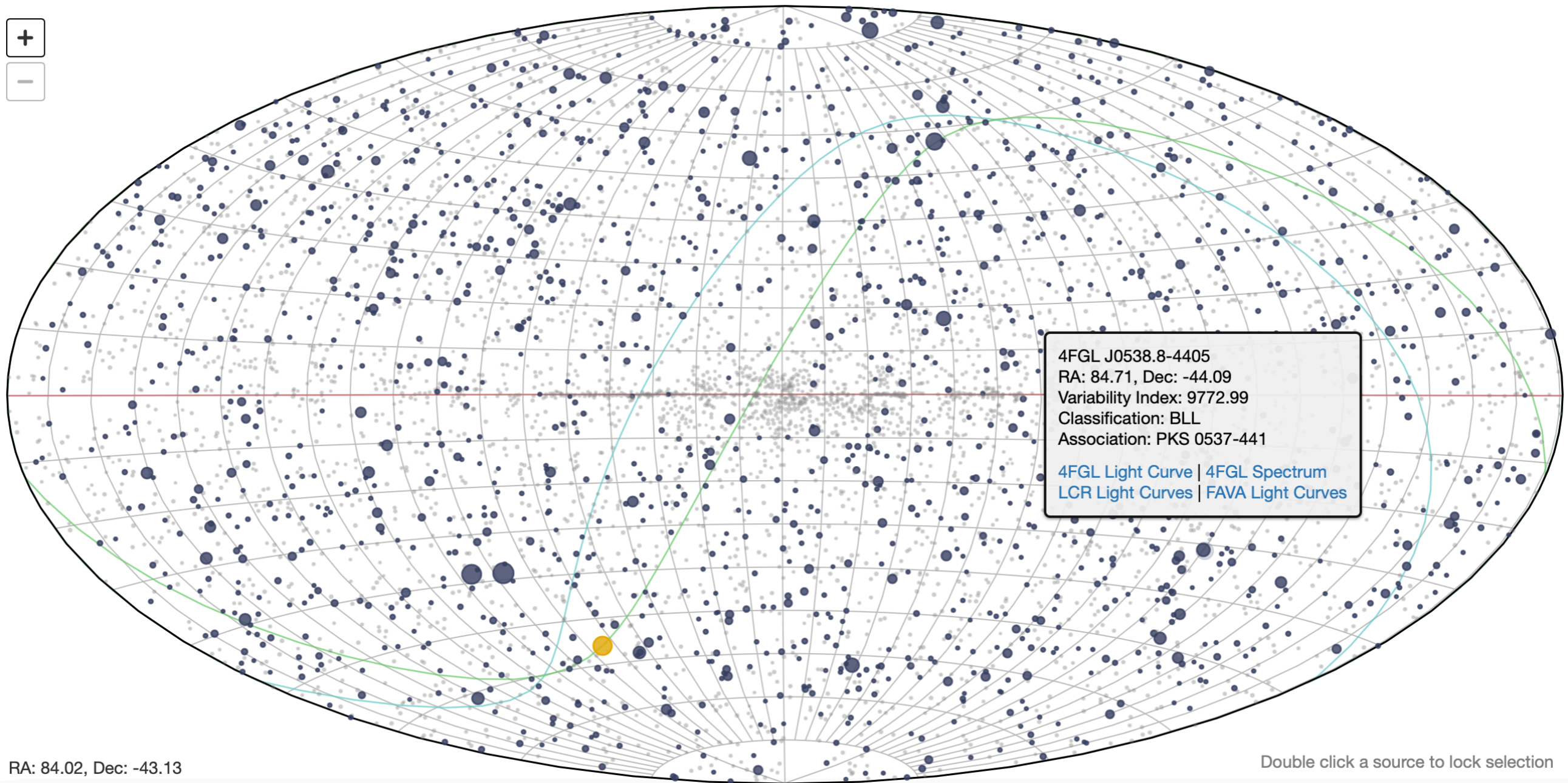
<https://fermi.gsfc.nasa.gov/ssc/data/access/lat/LightCurveRepository/>



RA: --, Dec: --

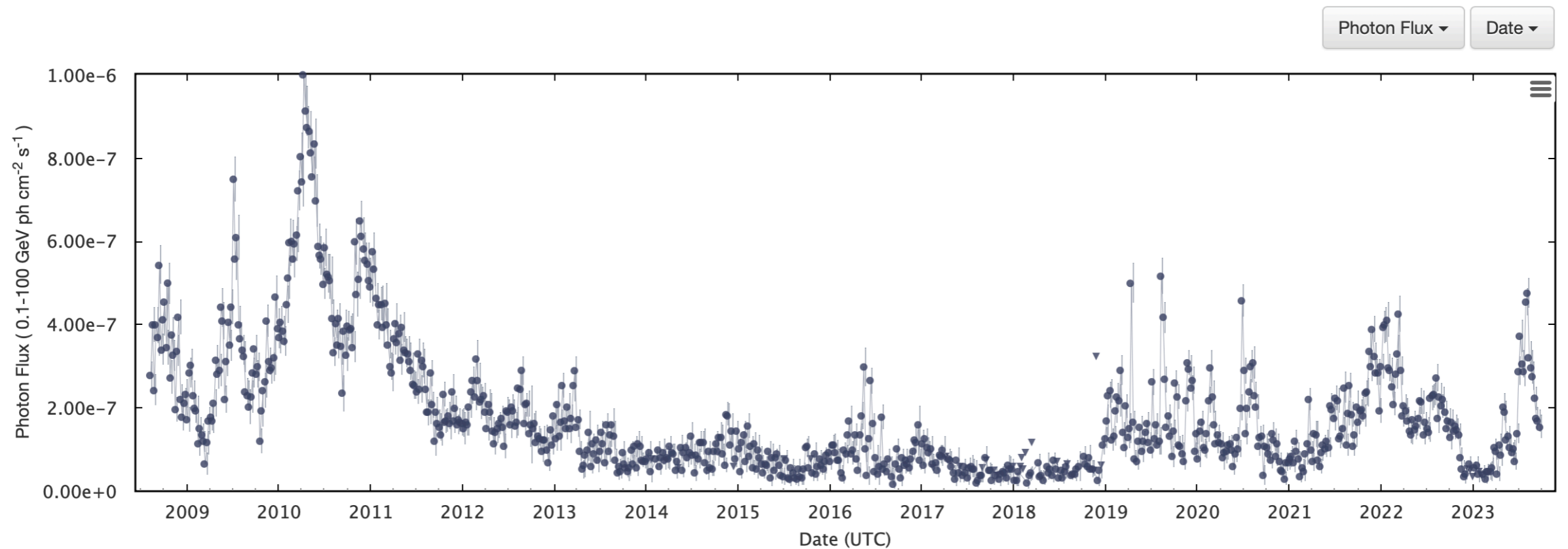


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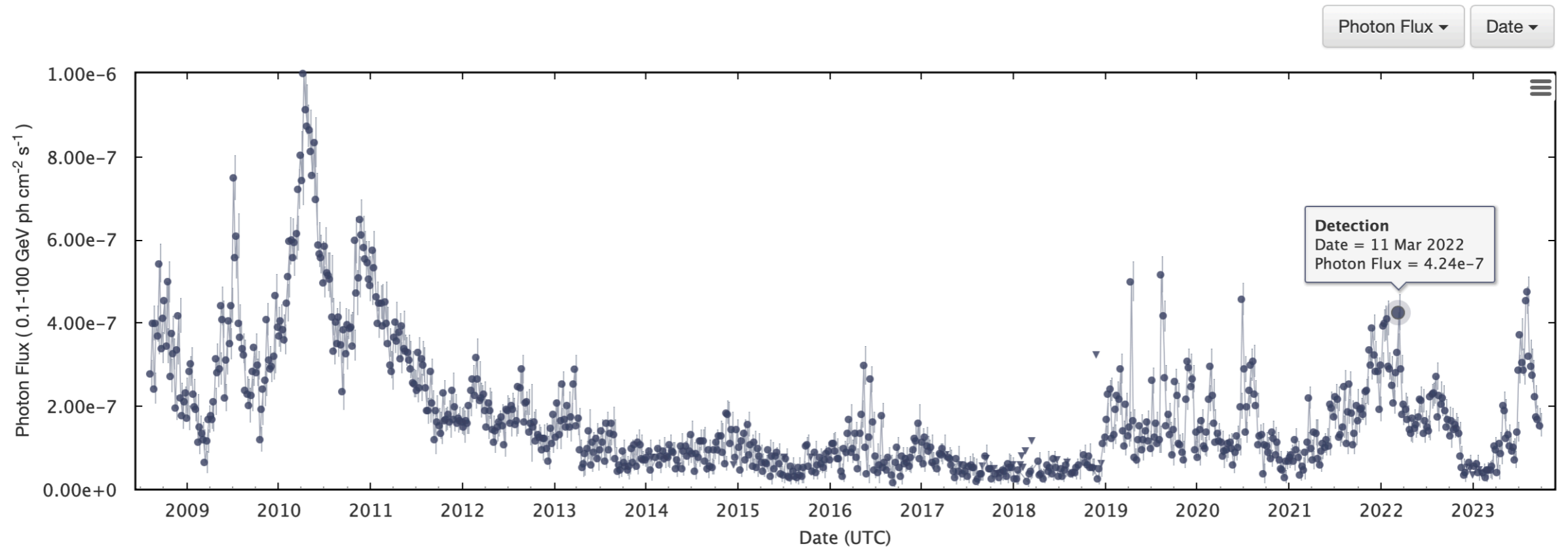


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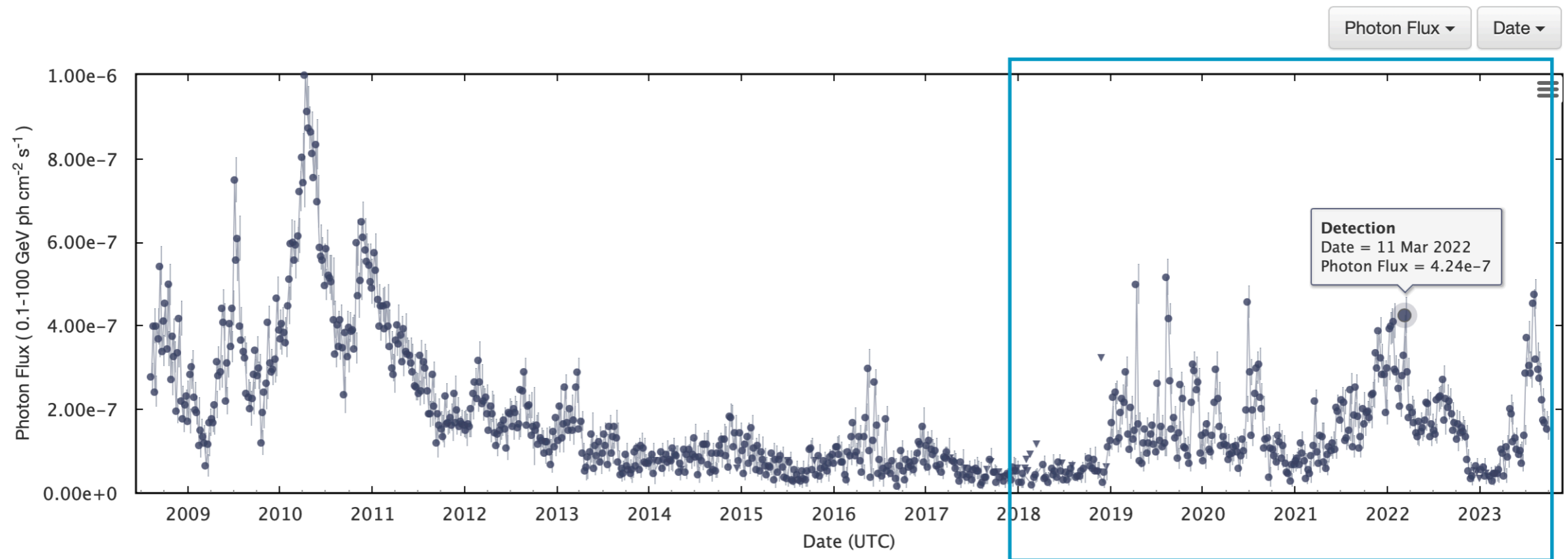


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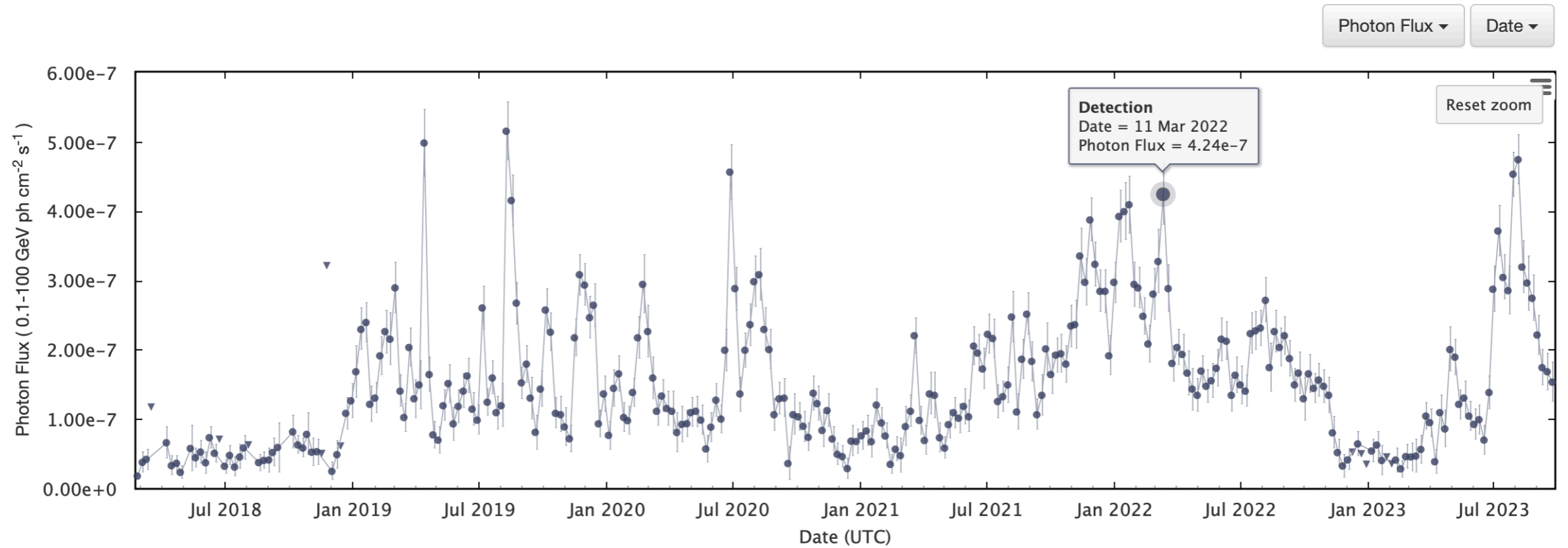


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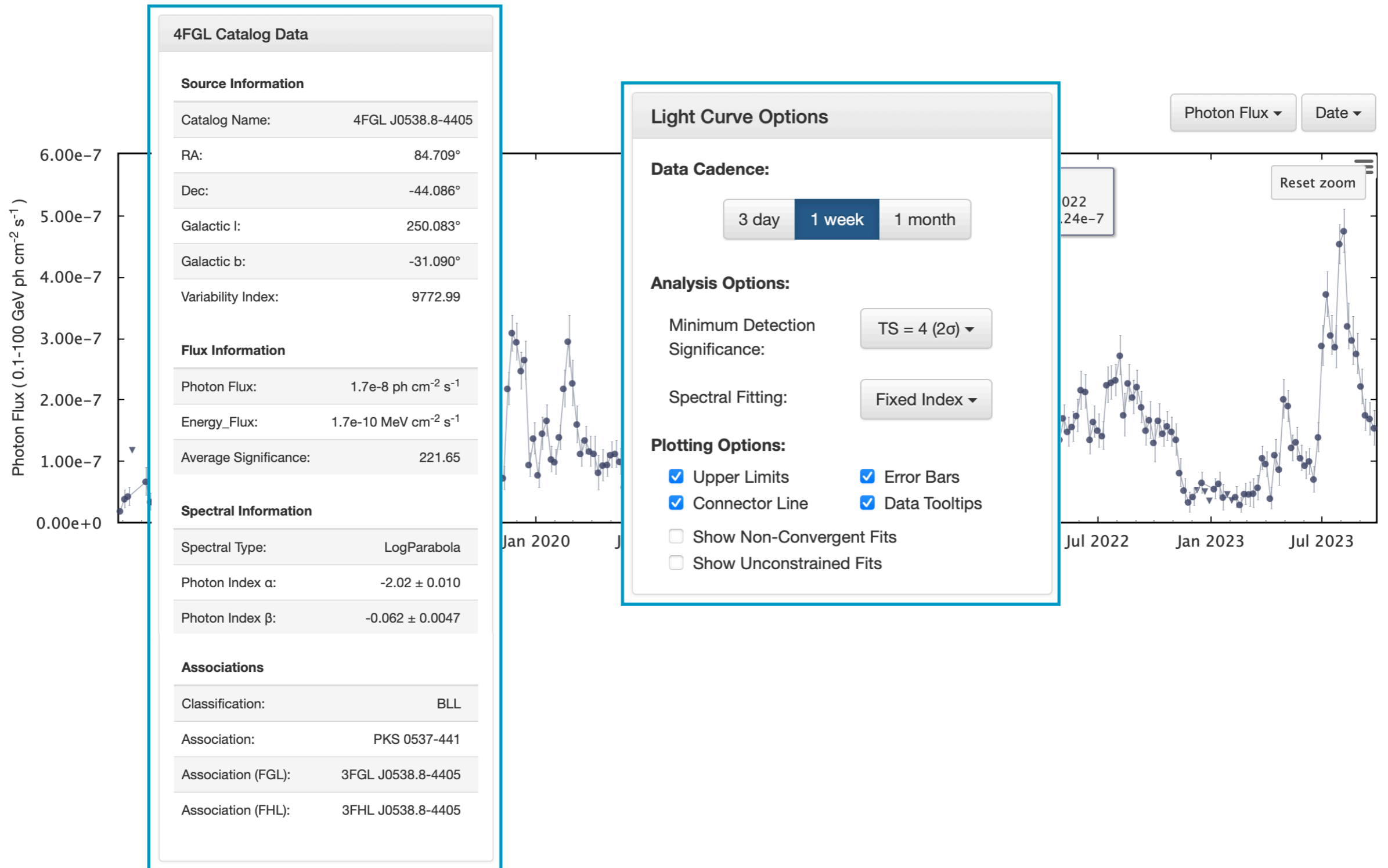


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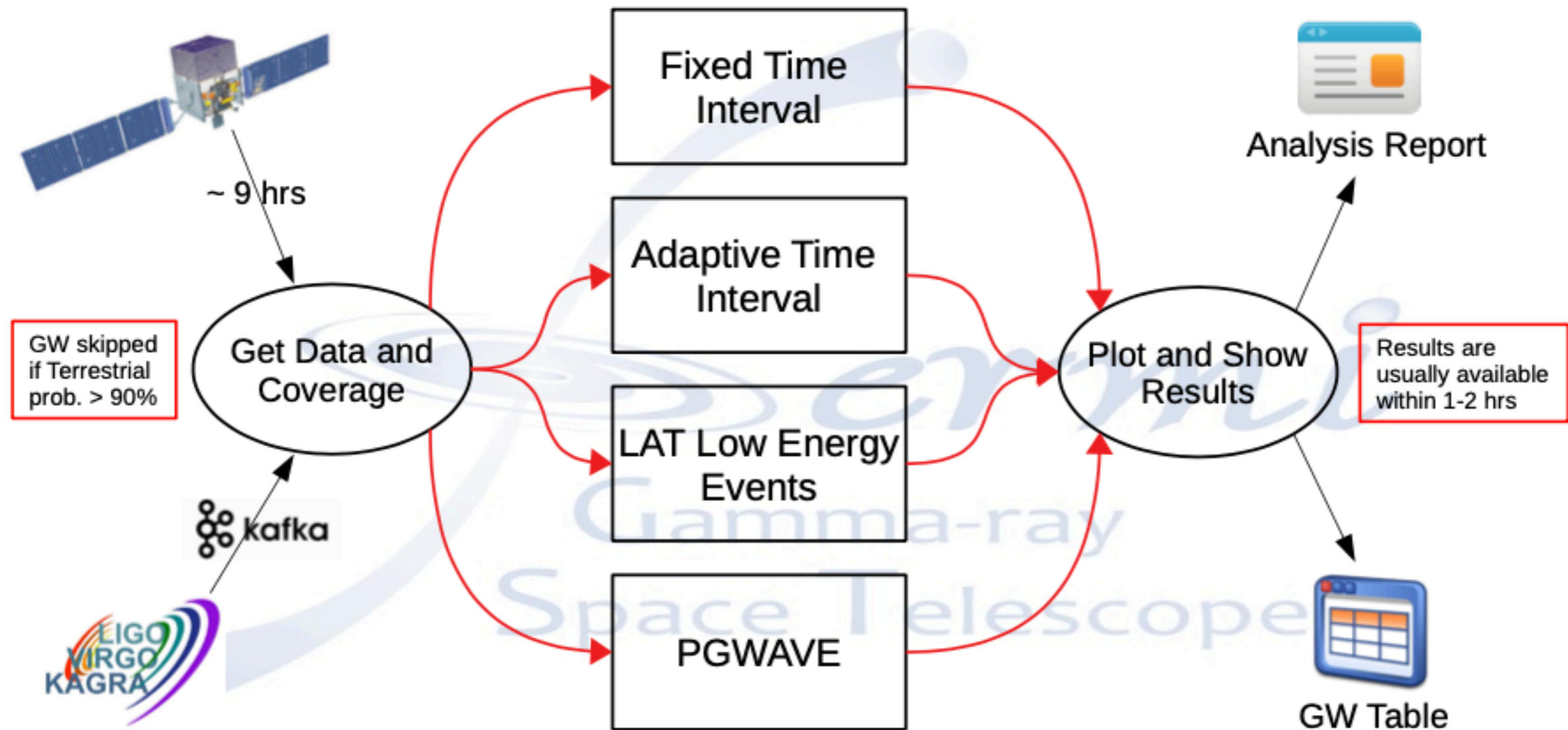
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- From Nicollò Di Lalla's presentation last week at the Fermi Symposium:

LAT GW Follow-up Pipeline





- From Nicollò Di Lalla's presentation last week at the Fermi Symposium:

Implemented Analyses

Fixed Time
Interval

- An independent unbinned maximum likelihood analysis is run for each pixel within 90% probability of the GW map in a **fixed time window** of 10 ks after the GW trigger

Adaptive Time
Interval

- Similar to the FTI analysis, but the **ATI time window is optimized for each pixel separately** to get the largest exposure closer to the trigger time

LAT Low Energy
Events

- LLE data ($E < 100$ MeV) are extracted for each pixel of the GW map in the LAT FoV at the trigger time and the **significance of the light curves** is estimated respect to the background

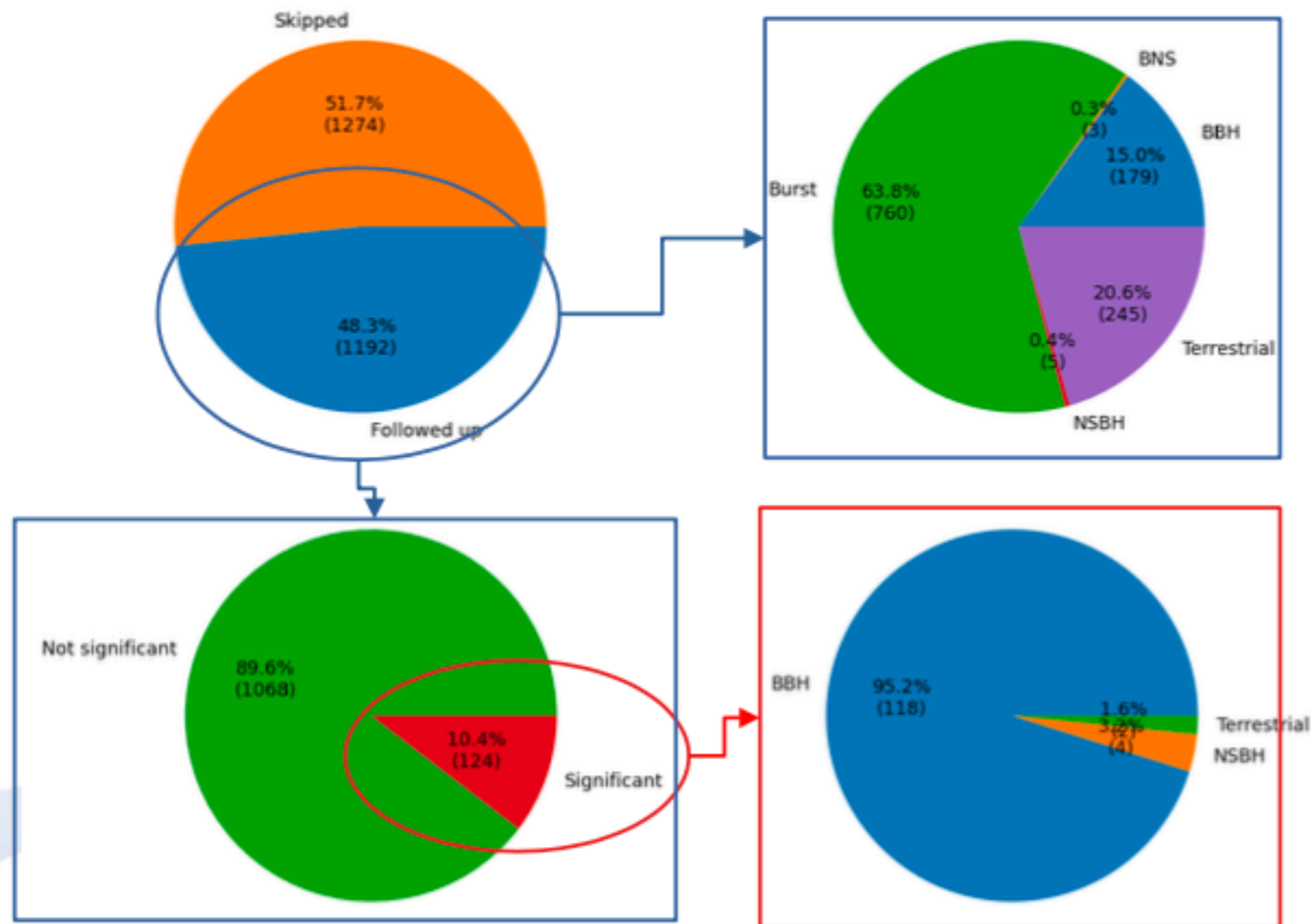
PGWAVE

- PGWAVE is run over the count map to **discover candidate sources**, followed by a dedicated likelihood analysis if any of these are within the 90% probability of the GW map



- From Nicollò Di Lalla's presentation last week at the Fermi Symposium:

O4a+O4b (so far) in Numbers



O4 and Fermi LAT



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O3

O4

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S240902bq	2024-09-02	14:33:06	Link	2.5e-09	BBH: 100.0%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.2	9.8	5.3e-10	Link (v02)
S240830gn	2024-08-30	21:11:20	Link	6.3e-10	BBH: 89.1%	0.0	0.0	0.1	26.0	5.9	9.9	1.3e-09	Link (v02)
S240825ar	2024-08-25	05:51:46	Link	3.2e-09	BBH: 96.5%	0.0	0.0	7.1	83.2	9.2	9.5	2.8e-10	Link (v02)
S240813d	2024-08-13	04:39:13	Link	1.8e-18	BBH: 100.0%	0.0	0.0	0.0	27.4	12.4	11.1	1.4e-09	Link (v02)
S240813c	2024-08-13	03:45:48	Link	2.6e-09	BBH: 99.8%	0.0	0.0	2.8	41.8	19.5	23.4	6.9e-10	Link (v02)
S240807h	2024-08-07	21:45:59	Link	2.0e-11	BBH: 100.0%	0.0	0.0	28.3	39.9	37.1	35.4	5.7e-10	Link (v02)
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O4 and Fermi LAT



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Maximum significance for the Adaptive Time Integral analysis

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S240807h	2024-08-07	21:45:59	Link	2.0e-11	BBH: 100.0%	0.0	0.0	28.3	39.9	37.1	35.4	5.7e-10	Link (v02)
S240716b	2024-07-16	03:49:00	Link	7.9e-16	BBH: 100.0%	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.6	22.5	19.6	5.7e-10	Link (v02)
S240705at	2024-07-05	05:32:15	Link	7.1e-16	BBH: 100.0%	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	7.9	8.1	6.5e-10	Link (v02)
S240703ad	2024-07-03	19:13:55	Link	1.2e-13	BBH: 100.0%	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.9	20.7	18.2	4.5e-10	Link (v02)
S240630t	2024-06-30	10:17:03	Link	1.9e-12	BBH: 100.0%	0.0	0.0	0.0	92.4	22.0	24.7	5.6e-10	Link (v02)
S240629by	2024-06-29	14:52:56	Link	3.2e-10	BBH: 91.5%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	11.0	5.7	4.7e-10	Link (v02)
S240627by	2024-06-27	13:16:22	Link	1.2e-08	BBH: 99.2%	0.0	0.0	8.1	SAA	15.8	16.5	6.2e-10	Link (v01)
S240622h	2024-06-22	00:40:08	Link	1.2e-08	BBH: 98.5%	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	12.7	14.4	3.5e-10	Link (v02)

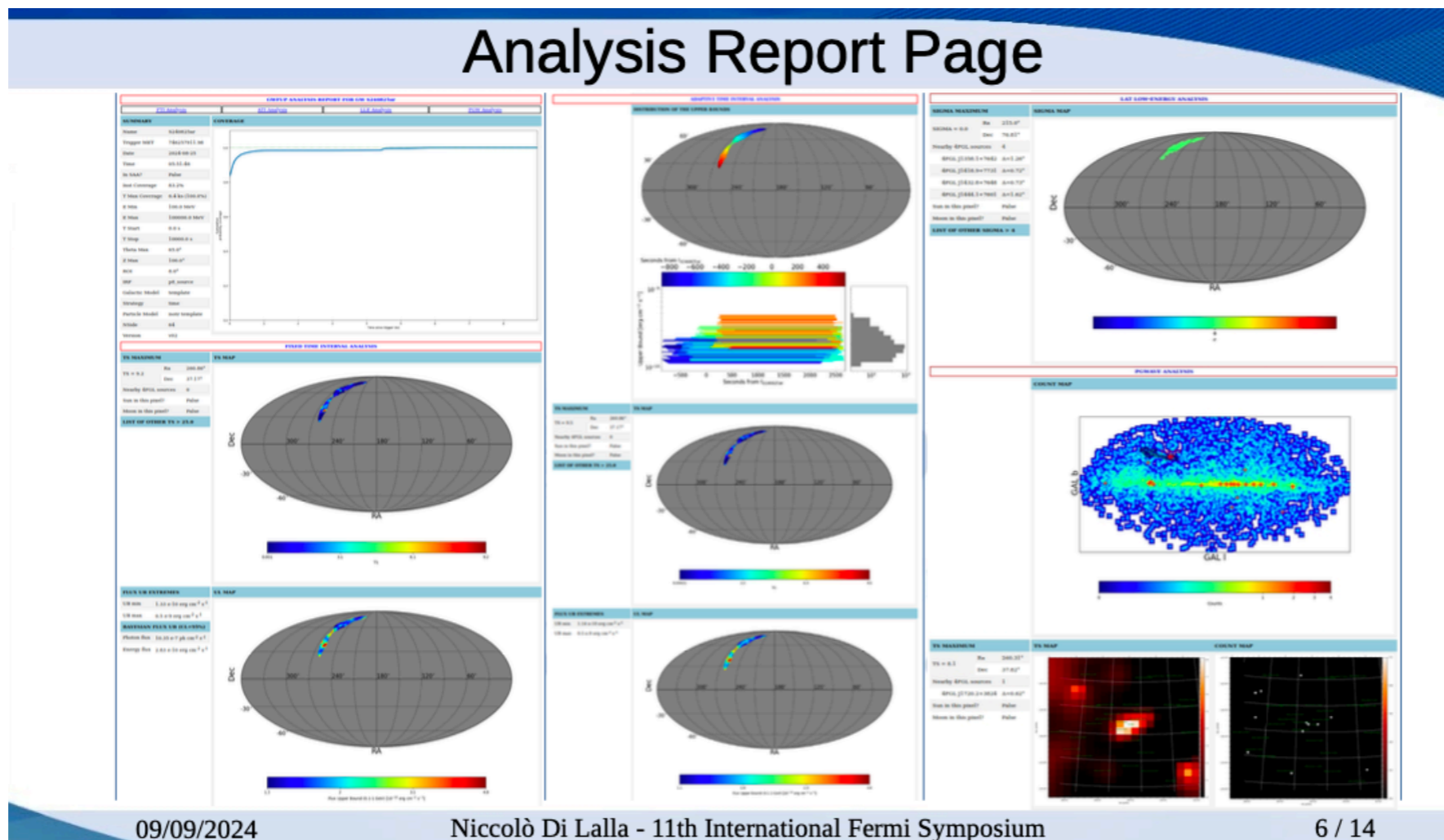
Click on "Link" to go to the analysis report for each event

Analysis report page:



- Automatically generated results for:
 - Fixed Time Interval analysis
 - Adaptive Time Interval analysis
 - PG Wave analysis

<http://fermigrb.stanford.edu/GWTable>

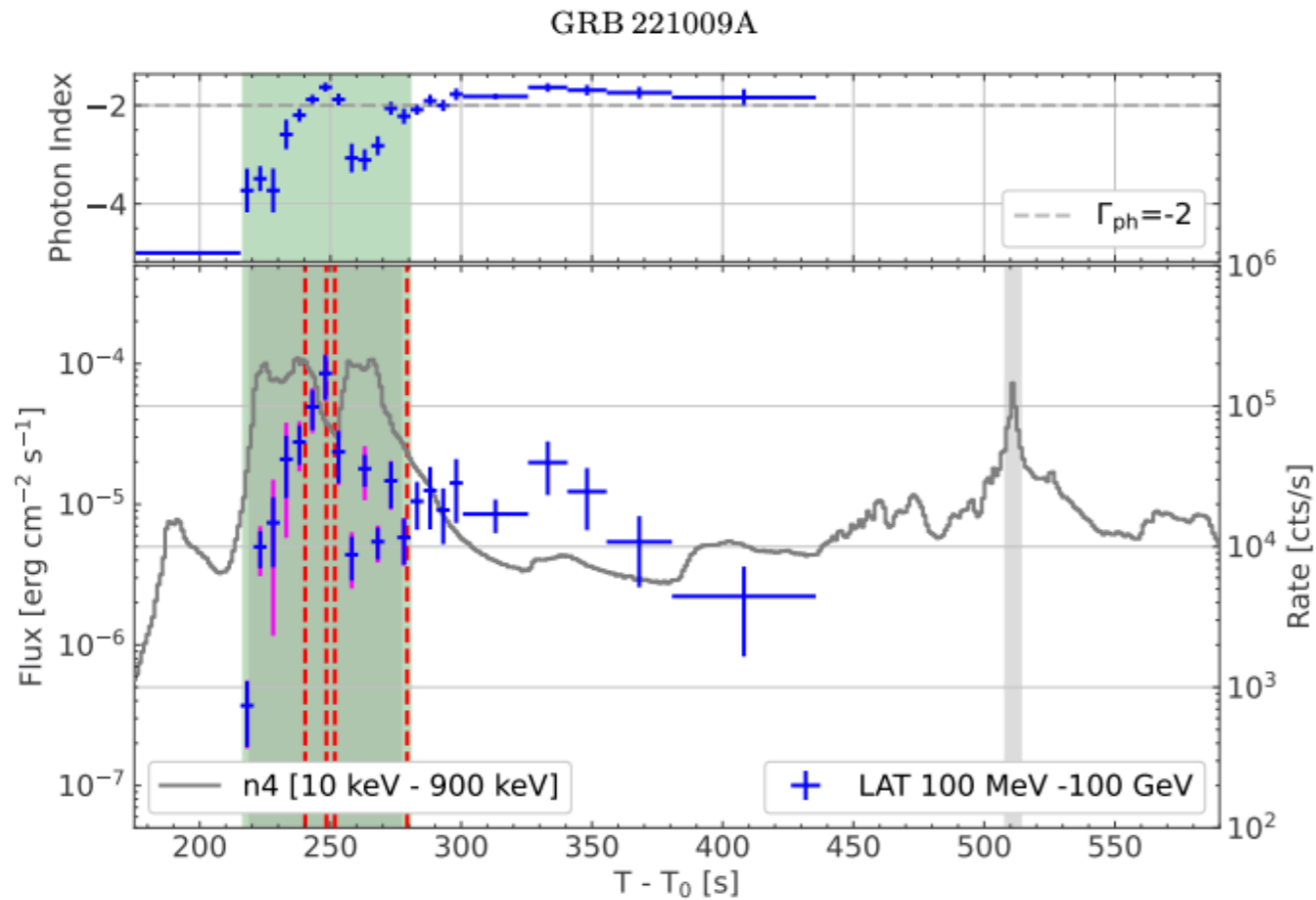


from Niccolò Di Lalla's talk at
the Fermi Symposium

GRB 221009A - the "BOAT"



- Caveats about LAT data [here](#)



arXiv:2409.04580

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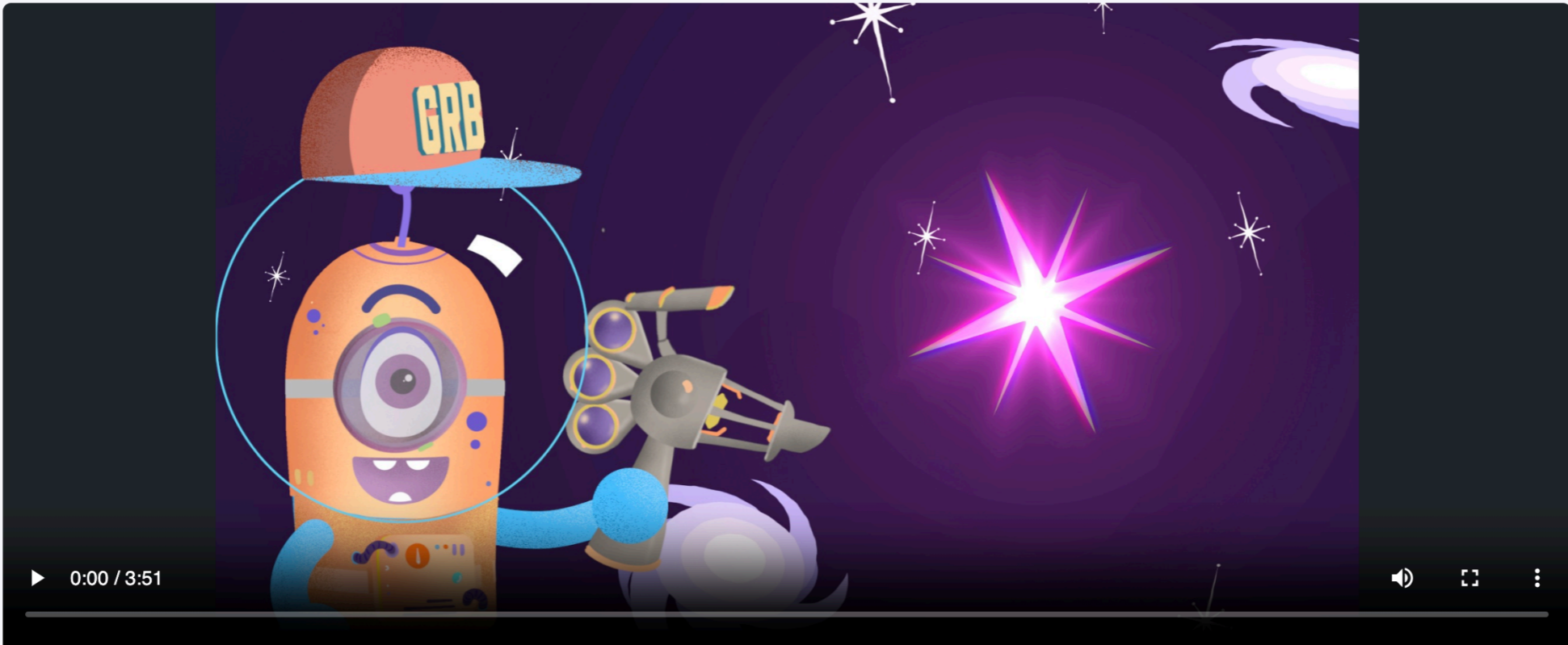
GRB 221009A



A "guide" to visiting a gamma-ray burst!! Yes - really :-)

- Fermi is a current contributor to 50 years of breakthrough observations of gamma-ray bursts. For this milestone NASA created a “guide” to visiting a gamma-ray burst:
 - <https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/14355>

Visualizations by: [Krystofer Kim](#) | [View full credits](#)



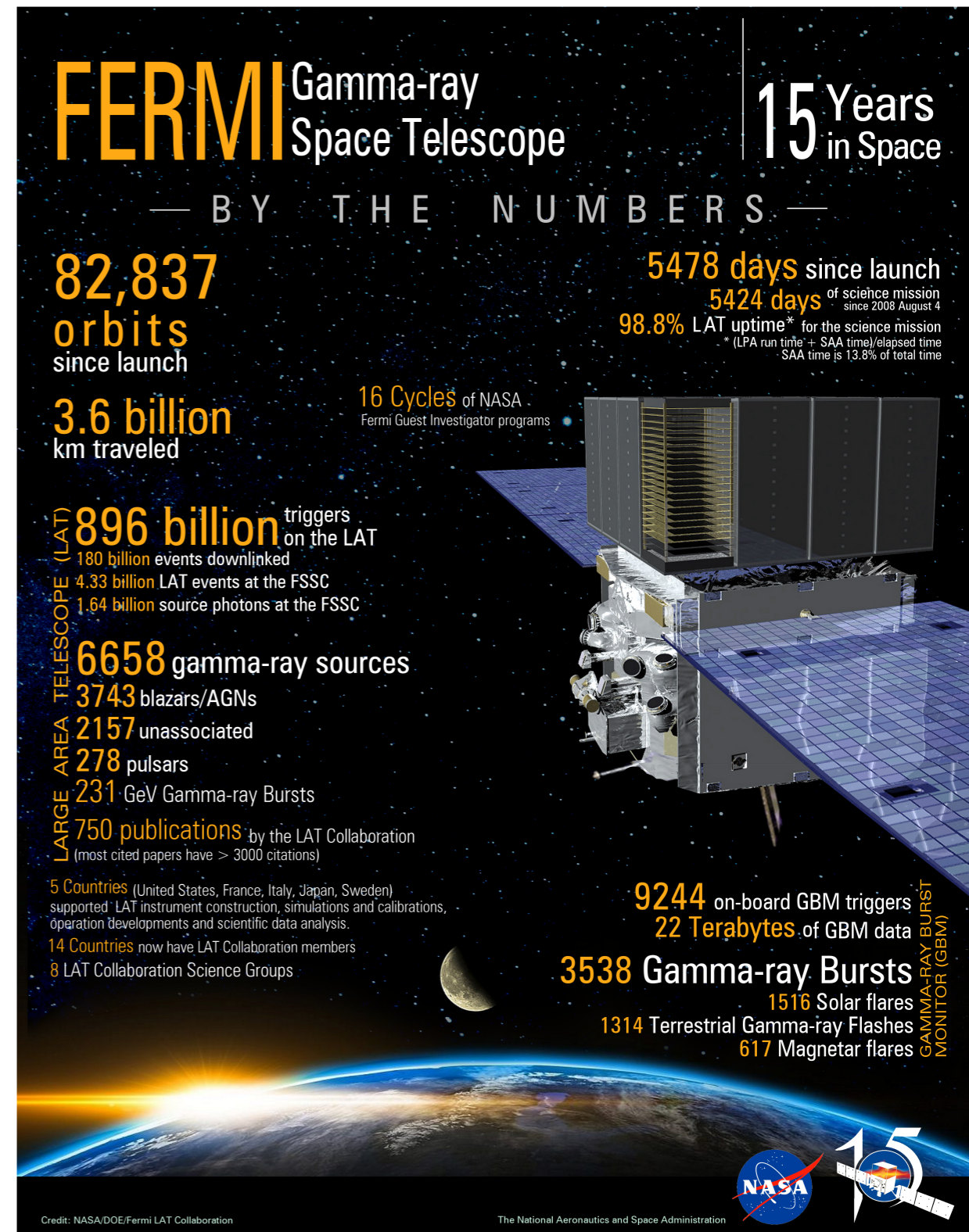
Our intrepid Traveler has decided to visit a gamma-ray burst for their next vacation. If you'd like to follow their adventure, check out this video for tips and tricks.

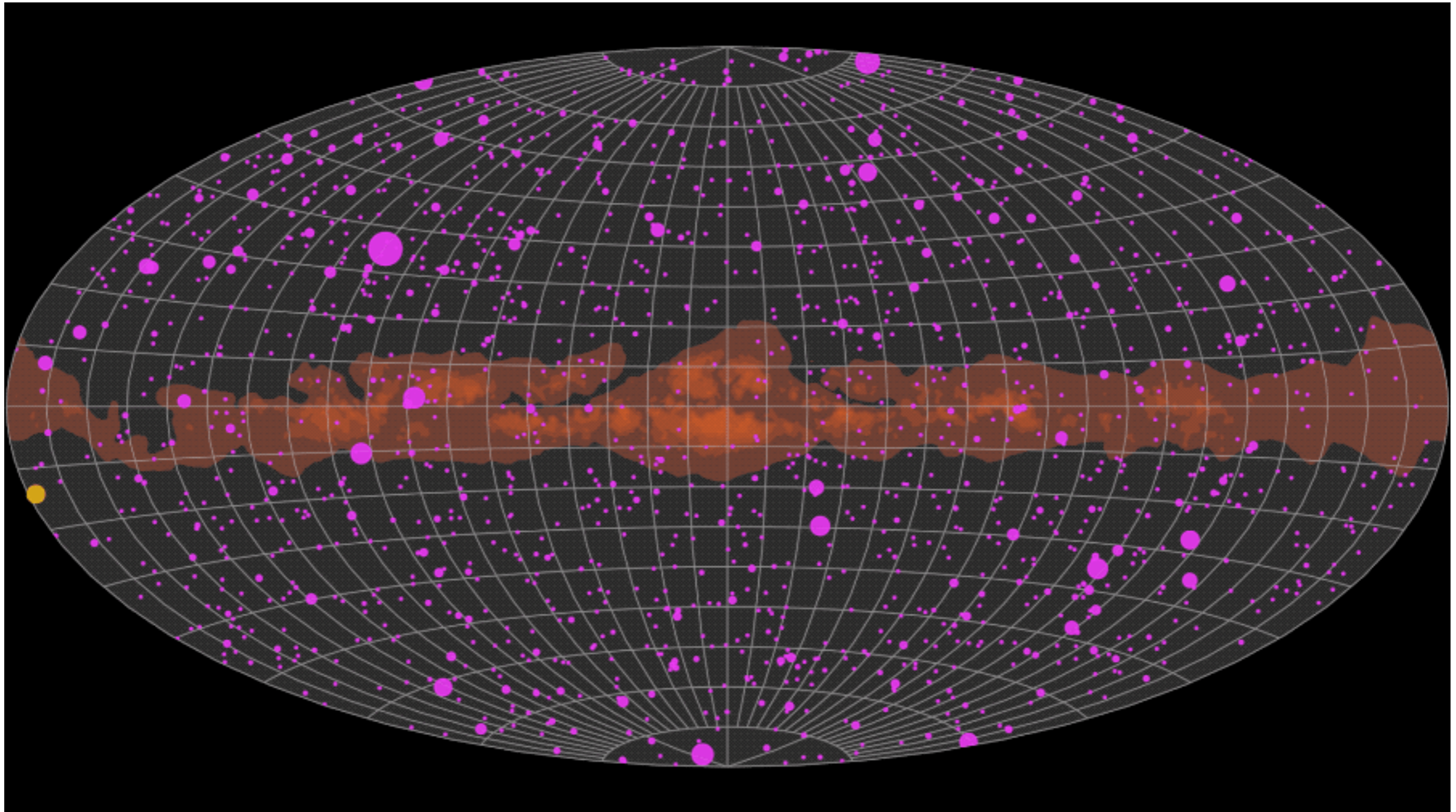
Credit: NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

[Download](#)



- A very **vibrant** collaboration and community !
 - strong engagement with the community
- Era of time-domain multi-messenger astronomy
 - *Fermi*-LAT has big role to play
- Constantly improving
 - in response to needs of community
- Lots more science - performance excellent
 - plan to operate *Fermi* while the observatory remains functional and while the science productivity continues to receive favourable reviews !





<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2023/nasa-s-fermi-captures-dynamic-gamma-ray-sky-in-new-animation>

Credit: "NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center/Daniel Kocevski"

Press release: 15 March 2023



LAT **14-year** Source Catalog (4FGL-DR4) - Ballet et al. (2023), [arXiv 2307.12546](https://arxiv.org/abs/2307.12546)

Refereed paper: *Fermi*-LAT Collaboration [ApJS 260, 53 \(2022\)](https://doi.org/10.1086/712546)

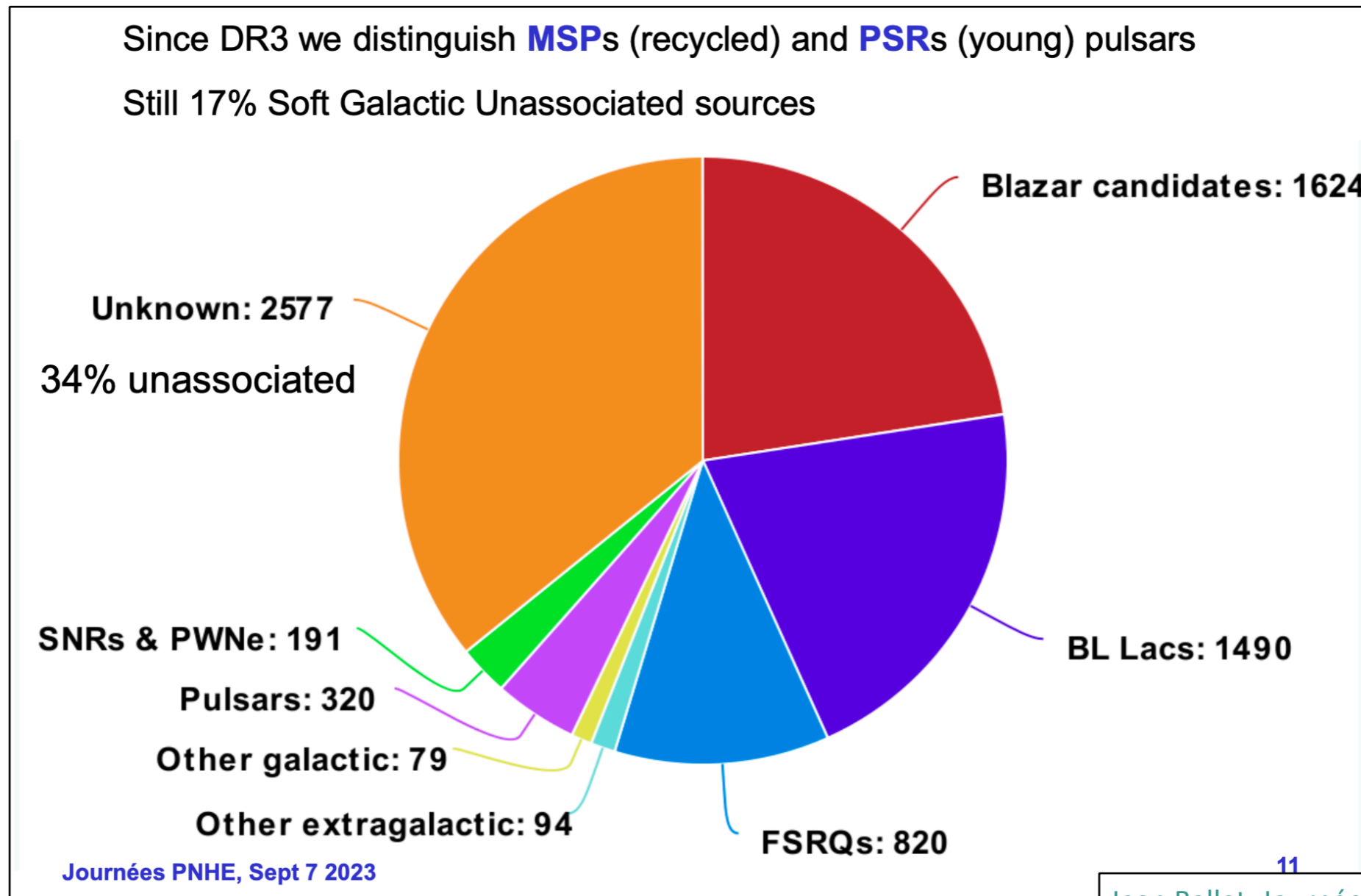
- All of the data are available [here](#) at the FSSC
- **7195 entries** in the catalogue (7194 sources since Crab Nebula has 2 entries)



LAT 14-year Source Catalog (4FGL-DR4) - Ballet et al. (2023), [arXiv 2307.12546](https://arxiv.org/abs/2307.12546)

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Jean Ballet, Journées PNHE (2023)



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Since DR3 we distinguish **MSPs** (recycled) and **PSRs** (young) pulsars
 Still 17% Soft Galactic Unassociated sources

