



# Kilonova-catcher, a citizen science program for fast transients



Damien TURPIN (CEA) & Sarah ANTIER (OCA)

*Astro-colibri meeting, 2023*



courtesy: TAROT Coll. & kilonova-Catcher astronomers



# Scientific objectives : High phenomena



*Compact object  
coalescences*



*Core collapse  
Supernovae*



*Fast transients  
(TDE, LBOTs, ...)*



# KILONOVA CATCHER

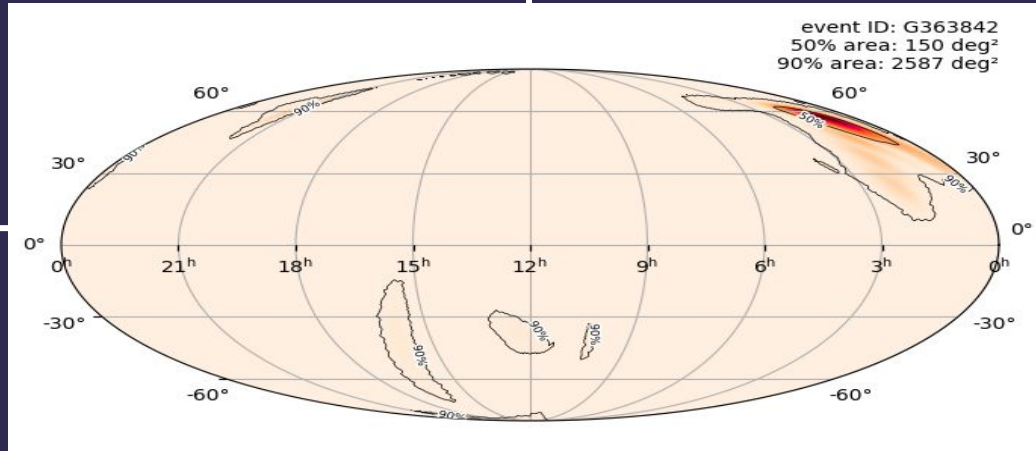
Motivations and birth



KILONOVA CATCHER

# Gravitational waves science

**Astrophysical origin  
sometimes unclear**



**large localization regions  
(> 1000 sq.deg)  
and  
partitioned in the two celestial  
hemispheres**

**Alert at any time  
(time-domain astronomy, welcome !)**

**Cosmological distances = large  
volume of Universe to cover**





KILONOVA CATCHER

# GW light signatures for compact object collisions



## ANATOMY OF A BINARY NEUTRON STAR MERGER

$T_0 - 200s$

### 1 THE TWO NEUTRON STARS COME CLOSER TOGETHER

These events are observed in other galaxies («at an extragalactic distance»).

$T_0$

### 2 MERGER OF THE TWO NEUTRON STARS

At the merger time, the gravitational -wave signal reaches its maximum intensity. The detection is obtained at this time by the LIGO/Virgo/KAGRA (LVK) detectors.

$T_0 + 2s$

### 3 THE GAMMA-RAY BURST

A plasma jet, travelling at the speed of light, is launched. The first electromagnetic counterparts escape from the heart of the jet as a bright flash of gamma-rays are emitted during 1-2 seconds at maximum. If the jet is oriented towards us, this flash could be detected by gamma-ray satellites.

Being able to detect kilonovae very early on implies that we are not directly observing towards the gamma-ray burst jet from which the emitted light can be billion times brighter than the kilonova one.

$T_0 + 5h / 10h$

### 4 THE KILONOVA RADIATION

A fraction of matter is torn off of the two neutron stars and ejected in the interstellar medium by several processes. These violent matter ejections enhance the rapid capture of surrounding neutrons by lighter atomic nuclei enabling the formation of new radioactive nuclei which are among the heaviest ones in the Universe. They heat up the surrounding plasma which then cools down by radiating away UV to infrared light.

➤ This light, being about 100 to 1000 times more luminous than a nova, is called «kilonova». It finally reveals to us the production sites of the heaviest atoms in the Universe!

A RED KILONOVA ...

A large fraction of the matter extracted from the neutron stars is ejected at a tenth of the light speed into a diffuse torus of plasma expanding in equatorial directions. Various heavy elements are then synthesized, such as Gold or Strontium. Those heavy elements, efficient absorbers of the UV and the blue-ish light, will therefore enable the free escape of the red-ish and infrared light photons.

... BUT ALSO BLUE

A minor fraction of the neutron star matter can also be expelled at high velocity (up to ~30% of the light speed) along the polar axis. The nucleosynthesis of heavy elements is then much less efficient than in the red kilonova ejecta. This ejecta, less opaque to blue-ish photons and heated at several tens of thousands of Kelvin, will mainly radiate light at the UV and blue wavelengths.

Scenario based on GW170817 / ATGfo2017



Turpin J. and D. et al., 2022



## Global Rapid Advanced Telescopes Devoted to Multi-messenger Addicts

# GRANDMA

37 telescopes - 26 observatories - ToO time guaranteed - 40 institutes/groups - *Pl. S. Antier - Born in 2018*



### Coordination on multiple axis

- Observations
- Data reduction
- Interpretation



KILONOVA CATCHER

## A Citizen science program managed by GRANDMA - Born in 2019



courtesy : Juan-Luis Gonzales Carballo (Espagne)

The Kilonova-Catcher Observatory network at  
2023-07-11T12:40:07.380963



- GRANDMA is organizing the follow-up and send out alerts via Skyportal
- GRANDMA is taking care of communication, mentoring of the amateurs
- GRANDMA is performing data analysis and scientific exploitation



courtesy : Denis St-Gelais (Mexique)



# Scientific programs of GRANDMA and Kilonova-catcher



## *I. Binary neutron stars - Kilonovae - GW counterparts*

[GRANDMA Observations of LIGO-Virgo O3 run](#), MNRAS, 2020, Antier

## *II. Relativistic jets - Gamma-ray bursts*

[GRANDMA and HXMT Observations of GRB 221009A](#), ApJ, 2023, Kann et al.

## *III. Vera-Rubin Fast transients*

[GRANDMA Observations of ZTF/Fink Transients](#), 2022, MNRAS, Agayeva

## *IV. Continuous Training with other opportunistic sources (SNIa, ...) ...*



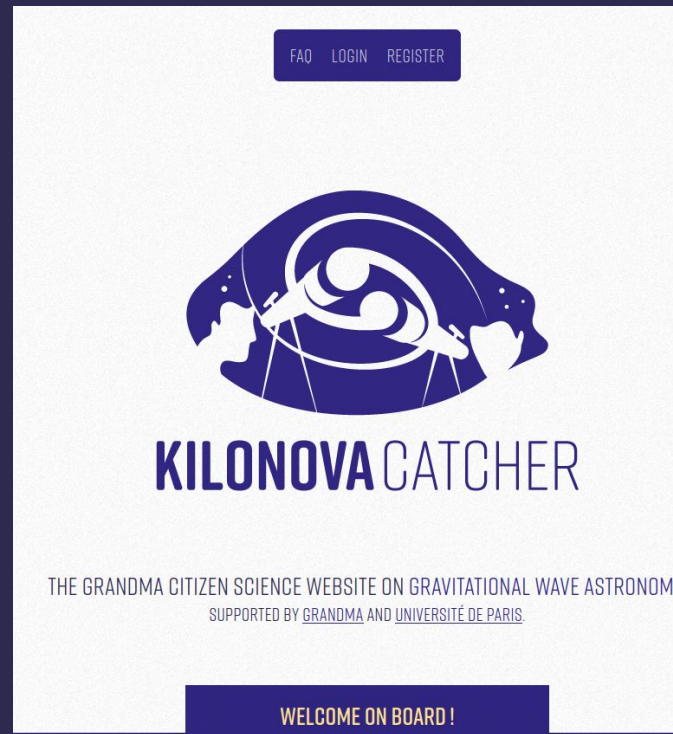
kilonovacatcher.in2p3.fr

by IJCLAB



**KILONOVA**CATCHER

From alerts to publications

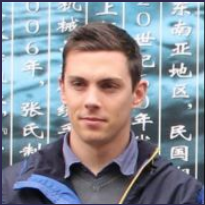




KILONOVA CATCHER

# The GRANDMA Kilonova-Catcher - Core team

## OUR SCIENTIFIC SUPERVISORS



**Damien TURPIN**

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## OUR ASTRONOMER EXPERTS



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**Antoine CAILLEAU**

<http://astromecca.fr/>

## OUR PUBLIC RELATION MANAGER



**Quentin ANDRE**

## OUR GRAPHIC DESIGNER



**Jennifer TURPIN**

web & logo design

<https://jenniferturpin.fr/>

## OUR TECHNICAL SUPPORTS



**Antoine PERUS**

IT dept. at IJCLab  
(Paris, France)



**Sébastien GREGOIRE**

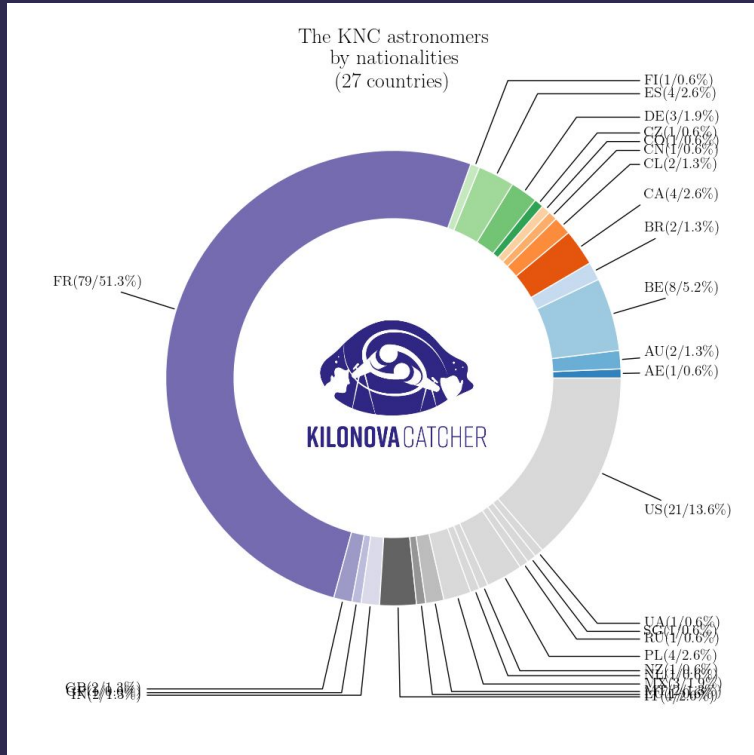
IT dept. at IJCLab

(Paris, France)



# The amateur network

KILONOVA CATCHER



~ 5% provided photometric results

~ 10% can reach 21 mag in r-band

~ 50% provided images once

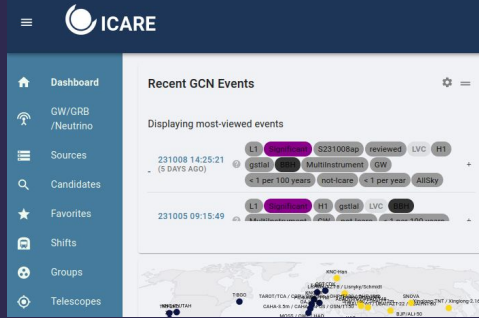
~ 100 accounts

Since 2019, +700 images uploaded and 70% science valid (for 30 alerts)

We have provided sloan filters g, r, i, z to 6 amateur astronomers (CNRS MITI science program)



# How to get the alert and obs plan info.?



### ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

- The GW-ICARE pipeline alert pipeline will generate the alert and send it to a queue for distribution to the alert system. The alert system will search for alert messages, and broadcast to the alerting system through message queues.
- ICARE will use the alerting system to generate the alert. The alerting system will generate the alert and broadcast it to the alerting system through message queues.
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### IN CASE OF AN ALERT BY GWEMOPT

- The alerting system will generate the alert and broadcast it to the alerting system through message queues.
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Skyportal for plans  
See. T Jegou du Laz talk

GWEMOPT, M4OPT  
for optimization for GW

Mangrove for galaxies  
selection for GW, Ducoin 2020

```
# test-skyportal
# tous
# tutos
+ questions
+ circularsgandma
+ gwalerts
+ technical
+ debug-images-ztf21abotose
+ Ajouter des canaux
▼ Messages directs
Slackbot
```

Localization Type: Skymap  
- Link: [2023-04-17T11:26:02.000](#)

**skyportal-icare** APPLI 16 h 04  
New Event: [2023-04-17T13:44:26.000](#) (LVC\_INITIAL)

**Time:**  
- Trigger Time (T0): [2023-04-17T13:44:26.000](#)  
- Time since T0: 0:19:36

**Notice Type:** LVC\_INITIAL

**Localization:**  
- Localization Type: Skymap  
- Link: [2023-04-17T13:44:26.000](#)

### FOLLOW-UP CAMPAIGNS YOU HAVE JOINED

Event Name	Alert Type	Trigger Origin	Trigger Time	Campaign Deadline	Event Type	Event properties	Degree of interest	Images taken	Accreted transients	Obs. Plan
S200213t	Simulated events	V1	2020-02-13 04:10:00	0 Days 00 Hours 59 Minutes 31 Seconds	BNS	Dist (Mpc): 201 + 80 P <sub>NS</sub> = 1 P <sub>REM</sub> = 1	1.47/5	2	0	Telescope myTelescope <span>Display Alert</span>

# Once data have been taken: Standardisation of the optical image analysis

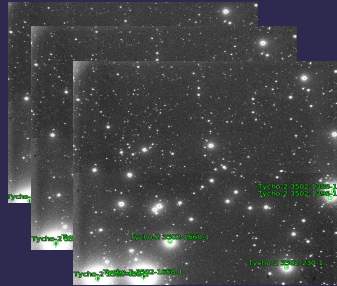
## STDPIPE AND MUPHOTEN



S. Karpov (FZU)



P. Duverne (APC)



**Photometry and astrometry**

S/N Ratio: 5, initial aperture, pixels: 3, Smoothing kernel, pixels: 0, Background mesh size: 250, Minimal object area: 5

Relative aperture, FWHM: 1, Sky inner annulus, FWHM: 5, Outer annulus, FWHM: 7, FWHM override, pixels: 0, Matching radius, arcsec: 0

Fiber: Johnson-Cousins R, Reference catalog: Gaia DR3 synphot, Catalog limiting mag: 20.0, Zeropoint spatial order: 2, Use color term:

Refine astrometry  Blind match

**Run photometry**

---- Object detection ----

Will run SExtractor like that:

```
/usr/bin/source_extractor /tmp/sex3000q/image.fits -c /tmp/sex3000q/sex.conf -vVERBOSE_TYPE QUIET -SELECT_CHANDRA_S -SAIN 1 -SELECT_THRESH 2.8 -MIDPT_TYPE BACKGROUND -MASK_TYPE NONE -SATUR_LEVEL 11180.0708625 -FAG_IMAGE /tmp/sex3000q/fagg.fits -FOT_APERTURES 0 -PARAMETERS_NAME /tmp/sex3000q/cfg.param -CATALOG_NAME /tmp/sex3000q/sex.cat -CATALOG_TYPE FITS_LDAC -FILTER N -BACK_SIZE 250
```

SExtractor run succeeded  
2785 objects found

---- Object measurement ----

FWHM is: 0.98 pixels  
Estimating global background with 250x250 mesh  
Subtracting global background: median 1185.7 rms 17.82  
Using global background noise map: median 32.9 rms 4.53 - gain 1.0  
Scaling aperture radii with FWHM 6.0 pix  
Using aperture radius 6.0 pixels  
Using local background annulus between 34.5 and 48.3 pixels  
Filtering out measurements with S/N < 5.0



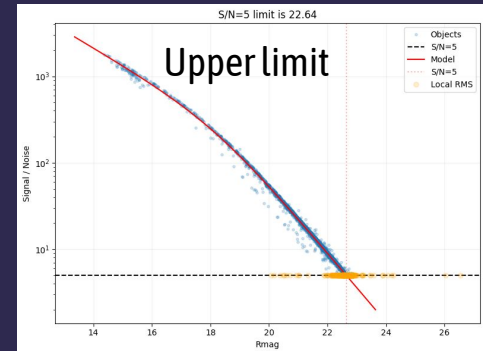
Astrometry / SCAMP  
Co-adding images

Mask

*Can we agree on?*

Sloan filters for time domain  
Upper limit definition

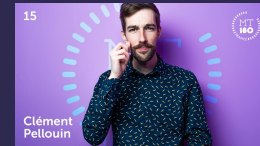
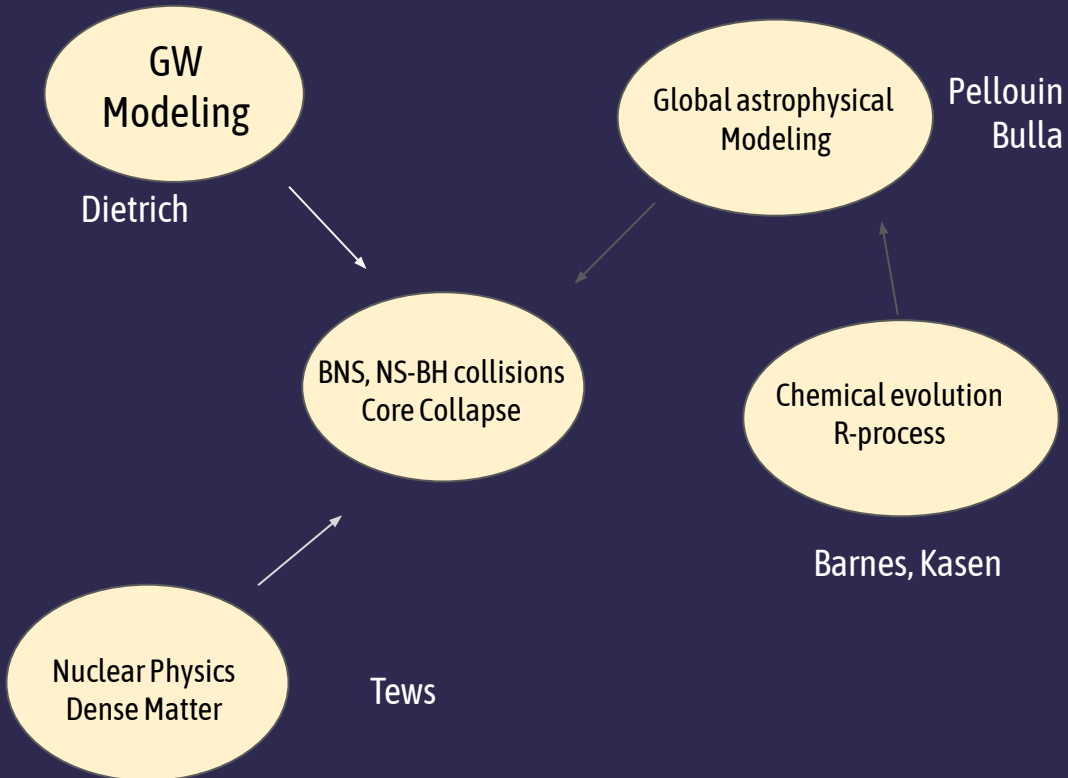
Catalogs  
Reference images  
Color term?  
Aperture vs Detection



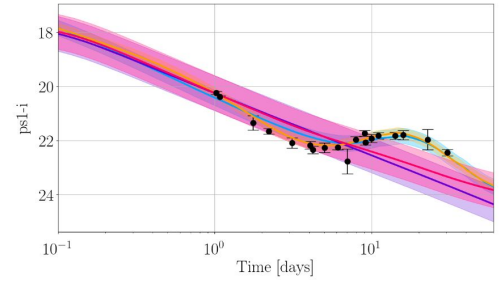
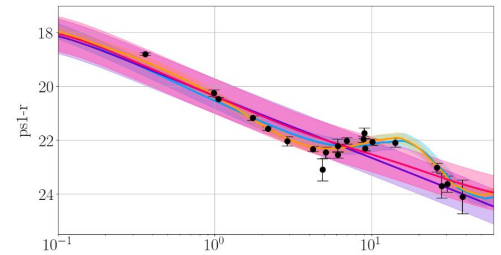


# Modelisation : exemple for BNS/NSBH, collapsars

NUCLEAR MULTI-MESSENGER ASTRONOMY (NMMA) / IAP MODEL



P. Pang (Utrecht)



— Tophat-SN — Tophat — Gauss-SN — Gauss

GRB230812B  
Hussonot et al., 2023, submitted MNRAS



## Connection with



## Objective: Fast/Automatic First instants of GRANDMA follow-up In collab with T. Esposito, A. Perrocheau

Unistellar have about 1000 amateurs potential interested into transients  
200 amateurs astronomers contributed to the data

We are connecting Skyportal to Unistellar

Evaluation of the photometry sensitivity of Unistellar Telescopes (on going)  
-> Probably 17.5 sensitivity in broadband filter 30 min

Skyportal is connected to public ZTF and provide complementary data to GRANDMA

## Connection with



No official partnership

Idea is to redirect the observations from a source to Kilonova-catcher or flag sources in colibri with Data from Kilonova-catcher

A large fraction of our participants use Astro-colibri



# Multi-messenger science dissemination

KILONOVA CATCHER

**Kilonova Catcher** @KilonovaCatcher · 19 sept.

🚀 Here is an image of GRB230812B, taken by Michael Freeberg ! Michael is part of the @KilonovaCatcher program.

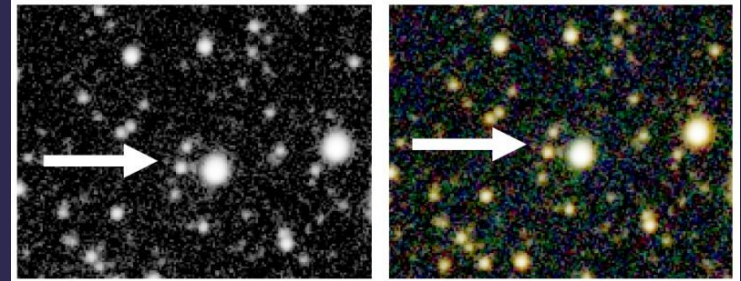
😎 An emerging SNe is clearly visible at magnitude 21.3.

💡 Long gamma-ray bursts are indeed associated with type Ib/c core collapse supernovae !

410

@KilonovaCatcher, twitter X

@grandmacollaboration, youtube with regular telecons



GRB221009A – 2022-10-14T20:13:34 – R≈21.1  
Denis Marchais / KNC – 60 min – T400 f/3 ASI533MC

Rejoignez nous avec Kilonovacatcher #K23.8/

Thomas Cullin, ESLV, "What is technical need behind to exchange multi-messenger observations"

Melii Pilcoi, Institut d'Optique, "What should I say to the youngest generations about astronomy"

Dr. Iara T. Melo, INFN - LNG, Italy, Describe the GRANDMA project

What will new neutron detectors bring to the field of multi-messenger astronomy?

What does the future of GRANDMA look like

HOW DOES EACH "MESSAGE" CONTRIBUTE TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF NEUTRON STAR MERGERS?

HOW DOES EACH "MESSAGE" CONTRIBUTE TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE COLLAPSE OF MASSIVE STARS?

Dr. Damien Dornic, CPPM, France, What neutron detectors bring to multi...

Dr. Alain Klotz, University of Paul Sabatier, IRAP, "What does the future of..."

Vivi Raghuraman, Univ. of Oregon (AUS) and Brown (USA), How do we study the neutron...

P. Guéroux, Florida Institute of Technology, "How do we study the collapse of massive..."



# KILONOVA CATCHER

Details of the programs



KILONOVA CATCHER

# I. Binary neutron stars - Kilonovae - GW counterparts



What are the interesting GW sources for us?

What kind of information GRANDMA is going to send to us?

How fast should I observe once a GW alert is received?

How fast should I send my images?



What are the expected electromagnetic counterparts?

What should I do to be able to identify a O4 GW/EM counterpart?

What would be the best strategy for extracting all the necessary information for science?







KILONOVA CATCHER

# I. Binary neutron stars - Kilonovae - GW counterparts

## Follow-up strategies and results

### O4 observational camp.

LIGO/Virgo/KAGRA S230627c  
About 20 fields with multiple galaxies  
in the field

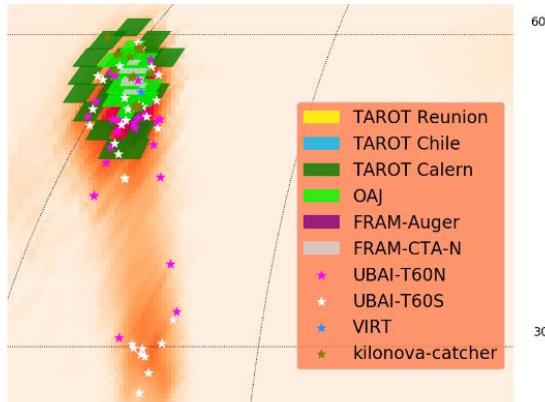
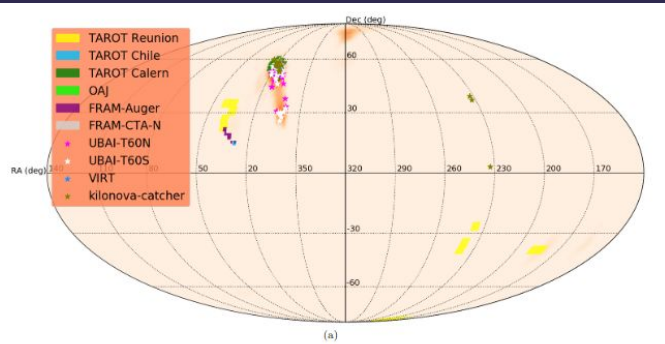
and

Follow-up of source counterpart-candidates  
(e.g GOTO23hn, ...)

No confirmed sources

### THE OBSERVATION STRATEGY TO ADOPT

1. **Make successive observation sequences with a «blue» (UBV/ug) and a «red» (Ri/riz) filter.** Ex: one 300s exposure with a B filter and one 300s exposure with a Rc filter
2. **Expose as long as it is needed** to detect the kilonova in a given field (the expected apparent magnitude will be communicated to you) at least in the red filter
3. **Observe several sky regions of your observation plan** by order of probability that your images contain the gravitational-wave event
4. **Send your calibrated images** (Dark and Flat correction, astrometrically solved if possible) as soon as possible using the Kilonova-Catcher web application
5. **Think about making revisits** of sky regions you previously observed hours ago or on promising transient sources flagged by GRANDMA

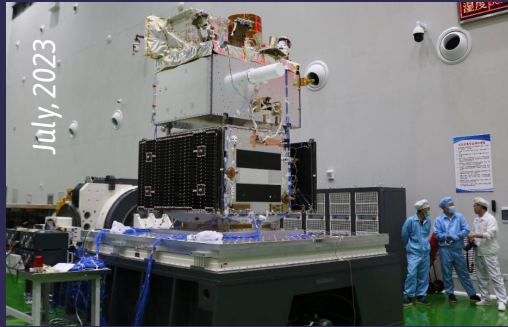


S200213t, BNS candidate but rejected in  
offline, Antier for GRANDMA, O3 summary, MNRAS 2020



KILONOVA CATCHER

## II. Relativistic jets - Gamma-ray bursts in partnership with

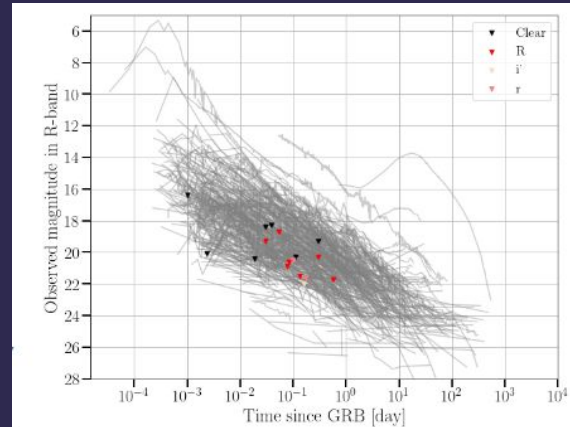


Kilonova-catcher will participate to GRB-SVOM follow-up (based on best effort) for the first hours

- Find visible counterpart if not provided
- Follow-up of bright sources

Versatile Satellite (Gamma, X-rays, Visible)  
 Launch Spring 2024  
*60 GRBs per year*

*Public alerts* within 30 s  
 up to 5 ToOs per day with < 3h delay



**Fig. 5.** Selected achieved upper limits of observation performed during the campaign (gathered in Table B.2) compared to a sample of observed afterglow lightcurve in R band.

Tosta e Melo & Ducoin for  
 GRANDMA, A&A, 2023

Ready for O4 campaign, 8 weeks of  
 GRB follow-up



## II. Relativistic jets - Gamma-ray bursts - More science

- GRANDMA and HXMT Observations of GRB 221009A -- the Standard-Luminosity Afterglow of a Hyper-Luminous Gamma-Ray Burst  
A big thank you to : E. Broens, H-B. Eggenstein, M. Freeberg, R. Kneip, A. Lekic, B. Delaveau, E. Durand, S. Leonini, D. Marchais, R. Ménard, F. Romanov, M. Serrau, S. Vanaverbeke, G. Parent, E. Maris, F. Bayard, O. Aguerre and M. Richmond (hope I forgot no one...)
- Ready for O4 II: GRANDMA Observations of Swift-BAT GRBs during Spring 2022 (to be submitted very soon to MNRAS)  
A big thank you to : O. Aguerre-Chariol, E. Broens, M. Freeberg, R. Kneip, D. Marchais, A. Oksanen, A. Popowicz, M. Serrau, J-P Vignes, F. Kugel, A. Klotz
- GRANDMA and partners follow-up of GRB230812B (to be submitted this month)  
A big thank you to : M. Odeh, S. Leonini, M.Serrau, J. Nicolas, M. Freeberg, L. Rousselot



KILONOVA CATCHER

### III. Vera-Rubin Fast transients in partnership with



J. Peloton (JCLAB)

Follow-up of fast transients with GRANDMA (< 20.5 mag in r-band) e.g orphan GRBs, Kilonova, emerging SN..

Complementary observations with Vera

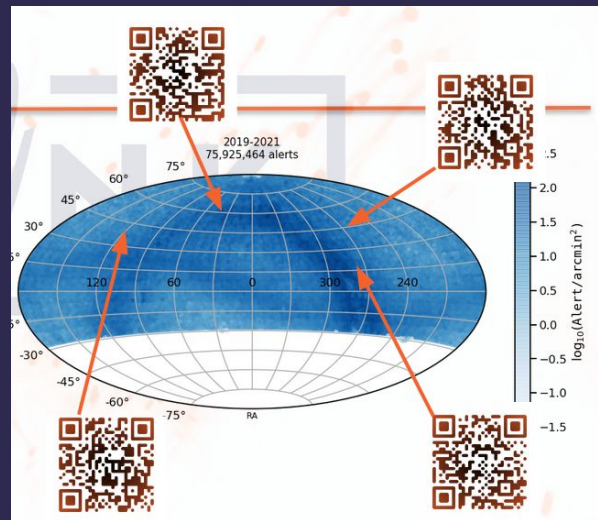
Two channels following in Fink : Kilonovae and fast Transients

Open to work with others brokers ;)

Fink is an alert broker for transient & variable science galactic to extragalactic

Users focus on the science, Fink provides tools

Since 2019: 201 million alerts received of ZTF, 136 million processed <https://fink-broker.org>



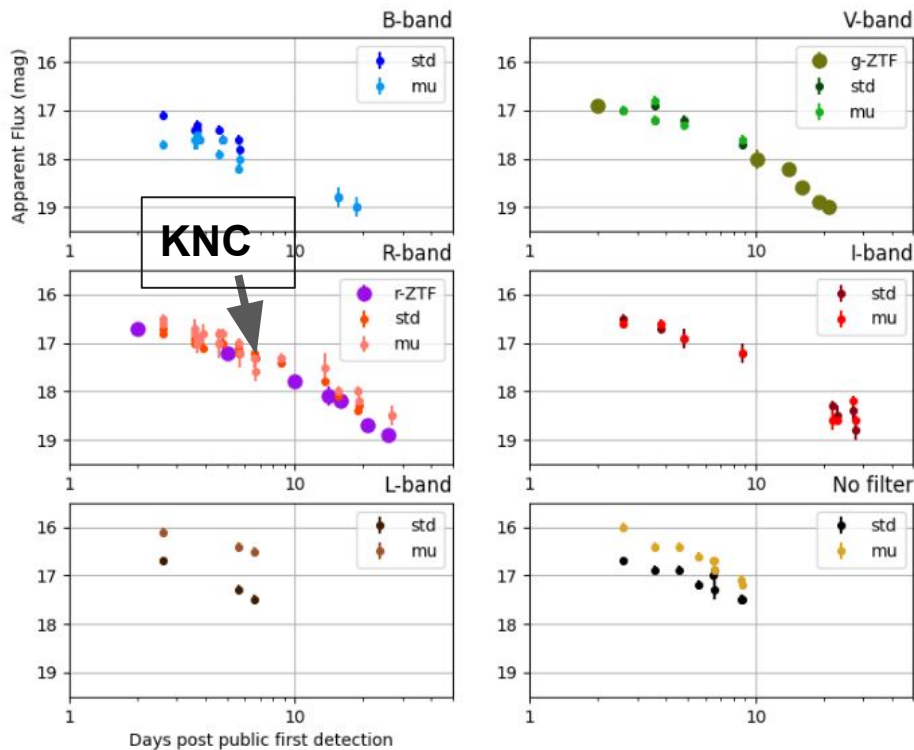




### III. Vera-Rubin Fast transients

KILONOVA CATCHER

ZTF21ablssud



ZTF21abissud, CV

6 follow-up with amateurs over the kilonova-channel of FINK.

GRANDMA Observations of ZTF/Fink Transients during Summer 2021, Aivazyan, 2021, MNRAS



## IV. Training Programs (what is not in the articles)

### Motivations : Keep Kilonova-catcher busy

- Help to find new recruits
- Global improvements of practices (e.g especially on images taken)
- Feedback from amateurs on regular basis
- Construction on A Network
- Confirmation of (risky/-) associations?

Amateurs participate in their leisure activity, and on different rythme, Keep cool and stay fun !

**Subject**

GRB231115A: GRANDMA Observations

**Date**

2023-11-15T23:22:01Z (5 days ago)

**From**

Cristina Andrade at UMN &lt;andra104@umn.edu&gt;

**Via**

Web form

A. Iskandar (XAO), F. Wang (THU/BJP), J. Zhu (BJP), L. Wang, X. Zeng, C. Andrade (UMN), A. de Ugarte Postigo (CNRS/OCA), D. Akl (AUS), E. Broens (KNC), S. Antier (OCA-Artemis), I. Tosta e Melo (UniCT-DFA), P. Hello (IJCLAB), D. Turpin (CEA-Saclay/Irfu), T. Pradier (Unistra/IPHC), M. Coughlin (UMN), S. Karpov (FZU), J. Peloton (IJCLab) report on behalf of the GRANDMA collaboration:

We observed the field of GRB 231115A (Fermi GBM team, GCN [35035](#)) covering the complete INTEGRAL error box (D'Avanzo et al. GCN [35036](#); Mereghetti et al. GCN [35037](#)) within the GRANDMA collaboration. Imaging with the 0.4m SNOVA telescope did not find any candidate in r-band around 2023-11-15 17:37:53 (e.g 2h after the trigger time) down to an upper limit of 18.9 (5-sigma threshold) or 19.3 (3-sigma threshold) using PS1 catalog as photometric comparison. We also looked carefully at the location of [AT 2023xvj](#) (Kumar et al. GCN [35041](#)).

The amateur contribution to GRANDMA, Kilonova Catcher (KNC), made no detection with a 30x180s image using a clear filter on 2023-11-15T20:00 UTC (TGRB + 3.28h). We determine a detection limit of 20 mag in r-band, using PS1 for calibration and color term correction. At 2023-11-15T18:53:25.219, we obtained R>18 from 5x180s exposure. The upper limit is given at 5-sigma averaged over all the images.

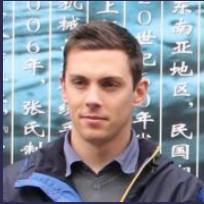
These upper limits are consistent with previous reports by MASTER (Lipunov et al. GCN [35046](#)).

GRANDMA is a worldwide telescope network ([grandma.ijclab.in2p3.fr](http://grandma.ijclab.in2p3.fr)) devoted to the observation of transients in the context of multi-messenger astrophysics (Antier et al. 2020 MNRAS 497, 5518). Kilonova-Catcher (KNC) is the citizen science program of GRANDMA (<http://kilonovacatcher.in2p3.fr/>).



KILONOVA CATCHER

## Conclusions



**Damien TURPIN (CEA-AIM), PI**

- Over the last 4 years: Kilonova-catcher member has been multiplied by 4
- Diversification of the sources observed by the Kilonova-catcher program

## GW is the core main program, listening GW triggers !

- Kilonova-catcher amateurs have participated / and co-auteurs to 5 referee publications since 2019 ex. GRANDMA O3 publication, 2020, 70 citations

## Data Science exploitation is managed by GRANDMA

- Amateurs can reach 21.0 mag in color (and made progress)
- Amateurs update their instrument to fit professional requirements (e.g sloan filters, CNRS MITI)

