



# KILONOVA CATCHER

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**KILONOVA CATCHER**

**Bring FINK/LSST transients to the amateur world**

**(FINK @ amateur world)**

**Damien Turpin (CEA/irfu Saclay)**

[damien.turpin@cea.fr](mailto:damien.turpin@cea.fr)





**KILONOVA** CATCHER

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Kilonova-Catcher  
in a nutshell



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# 2018 : Everything started with GRANDMA...

**GRANDMA:** Global Rapid Advanced Network Devoted to the Multi-messenger Addicts

*A network of telescopes connected across the world, equipped with photometry and spectrometry capabilities, dedicated to Time-domain Astronomy.*





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# ... and the challenges of the GW astronomy

**Complex sky localisation region**

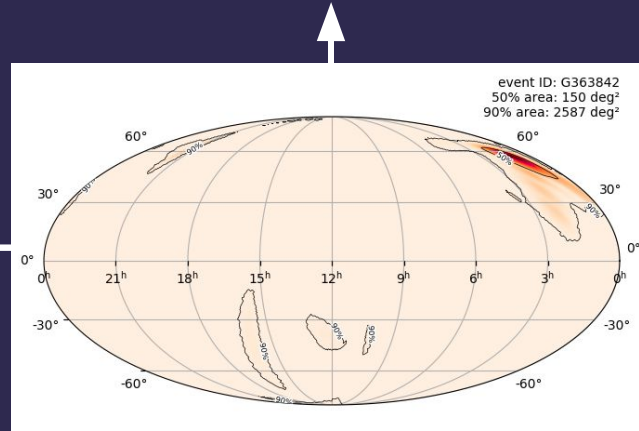


**Large localisation region  
( $> 1000$  sq.deg)**

**&**

**distributed in both North and South hemisphere**

**Astrophysical origin sometimes uncertain**



**All-sky alerts at any time**

**Significant updates of the GW localisation skymaps**



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



# The challenges of the GW astronomy

EM follow-up of GW sources  
are

**very greedy in telescope time,**

require

**complex and smart observational techniques and strategies,**

and can be

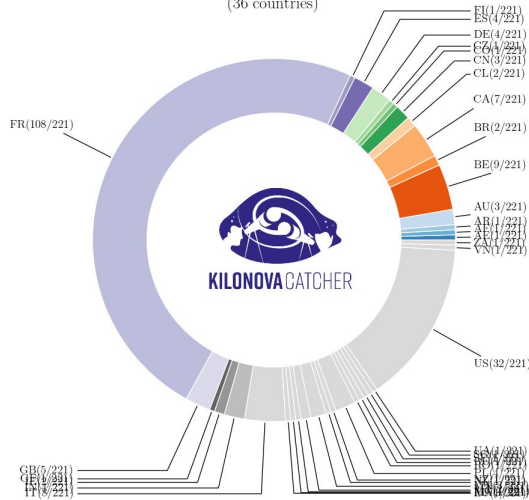
**largely inefficient without a world wide network of coordinated telescopes**



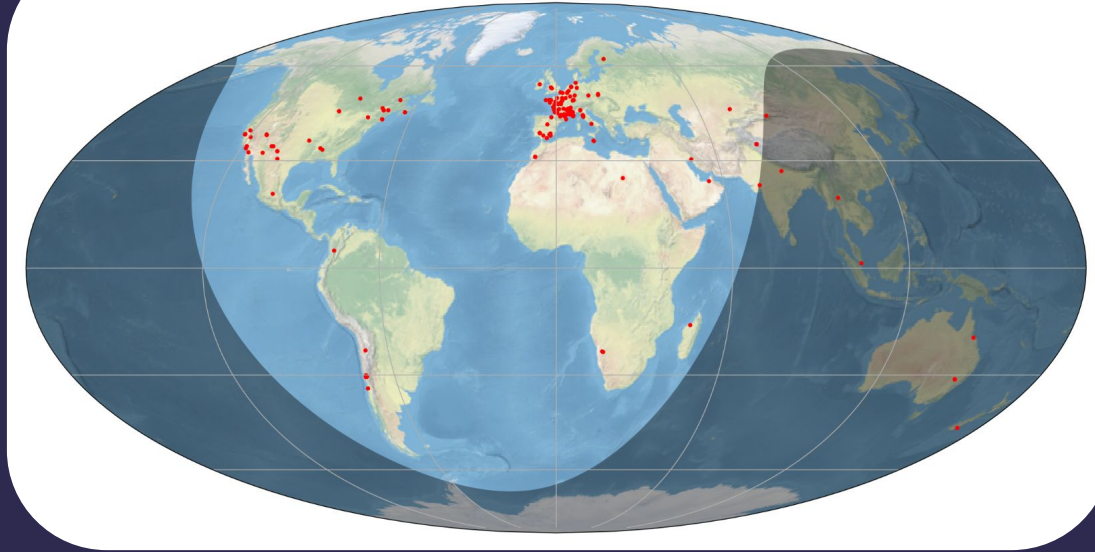
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# The Kilonova-Catcher network in a nutshell

The KNC astronomers  
in the World  
(36 countries)



The Kilonova-Catcher Observatory network at  
2025-07-04T14:00:00

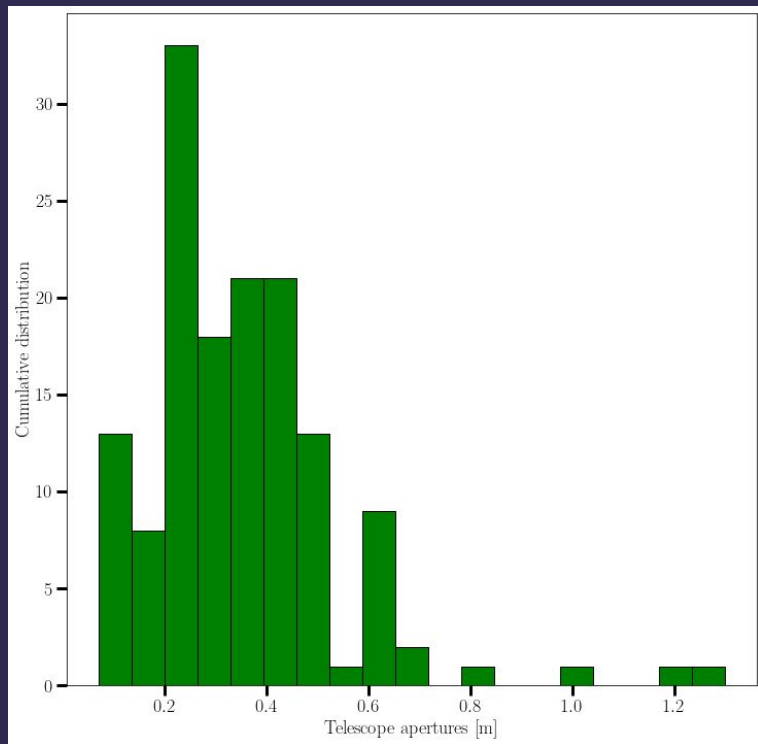


~240 registered astronomers, 36 countries, 160 télescopes (+14 in remote access)  
~50% of French citizen astronomers



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# The Kilonova-Catcher network in a nutshell



typical telescope diameters = 0.32 m

## Available filters

- Johnson BVRI
- Luminance / unfilter
- Gaia filters (RAPAS)
- sdss gri

## Typical image depth

g~[18 - 21.5] (exp~30' - 2h)

r~[18 - 21] (exp~30' - 2h)

i~[16 - 19] (exp~30' - 2h)



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# The scientific team behind Kilonova-Catcher

## KNC PI



**Damien TURPIN**

damien.turpin@cea.fr

## GRANDMA PI



**Sarah ANTIER**

antier@ijclab.in2p3.fr

## French pro-am coordination



**Alain KLOTZ**

alain.klotz@irap.omp.eu

## Animation & communication

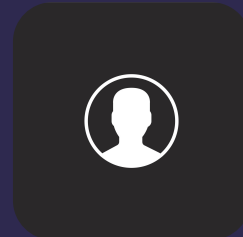


**Cristina ANDRADE**

Université Minnesota

USA

## IT support



**Gérard MARCHAL-DUVAL**

IT dept. at IJCLab

(Paris, France)

## and with the contributions of

Antoine Cailleau

Pierre-Alexandre Duverne

Quentin André

Michael Coughlin

Jean-Grégoire Ducoin

Frédéric Carbain



**Sébastien GREGOIRE**

IT dept. at IJCLab

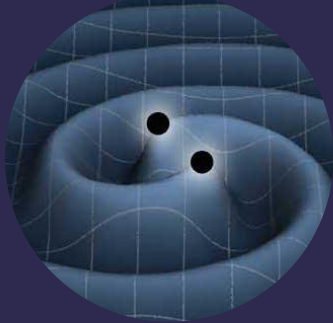
(Paris, France)



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# The scientific programs of Kilonova-Catcher

## Core Program (Since 2018)



Optical counterpart associated to BNS / NSBH mergers (LIGO, Virgo, Kagra)

## Opportunistic Programs (Since 2020)



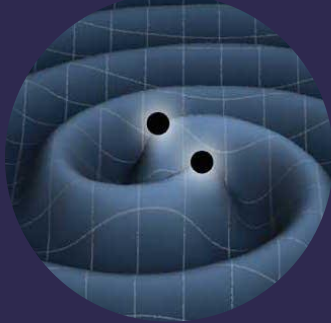
- GRB optical afterglows (Swift, SVOM)
- Fast optical transients (ZTF)
- SNe (ZTF)
- TDE, LFBOT? Orphan GRB afterglows?, GRB-SNe., nearby KNe?



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Here will come





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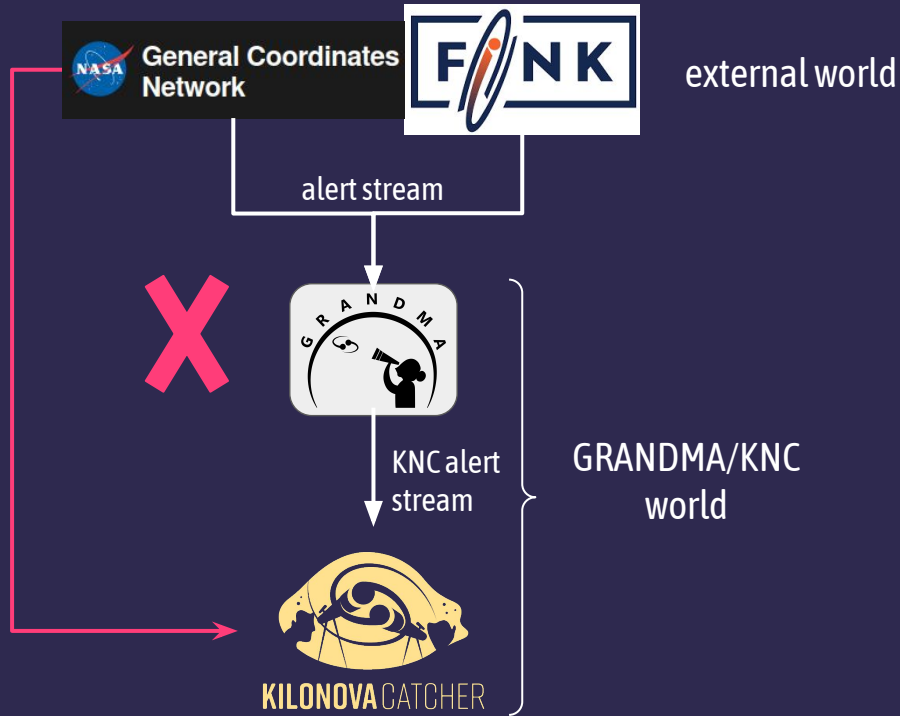
2

The KNC network, how it works?



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# The ICARE/Kilonova-Catcher system (simple view)



KNC alert flowchart

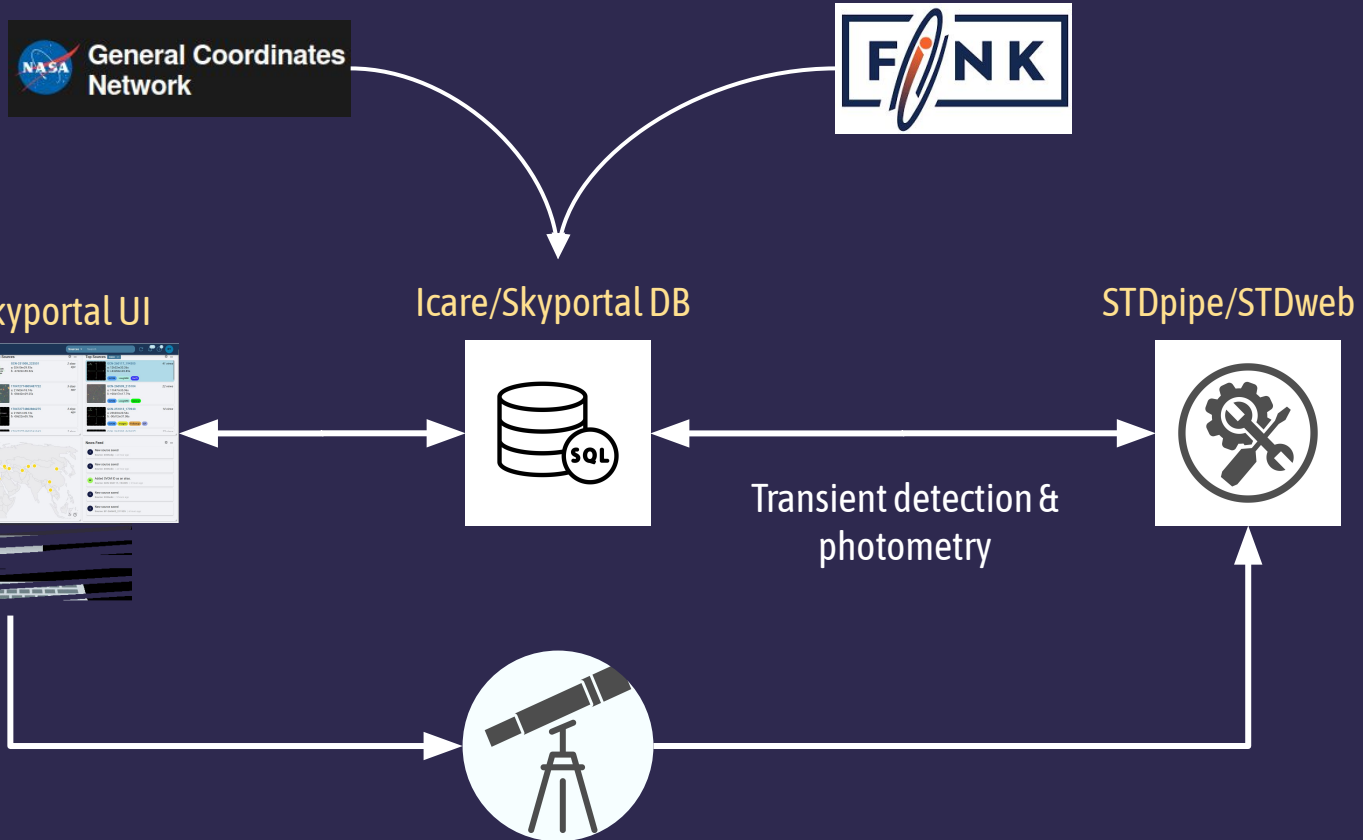
## The KNC network

- is automatically trigger from the GRANDMA alert system
- can be manually trigger by contacting [damien.turpin@cea.fr](mailto:damien.turpin@cea.fr) but needs a PI validation (the same guy ;))



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# The ICARE/Skyportal alert system in a nutshell

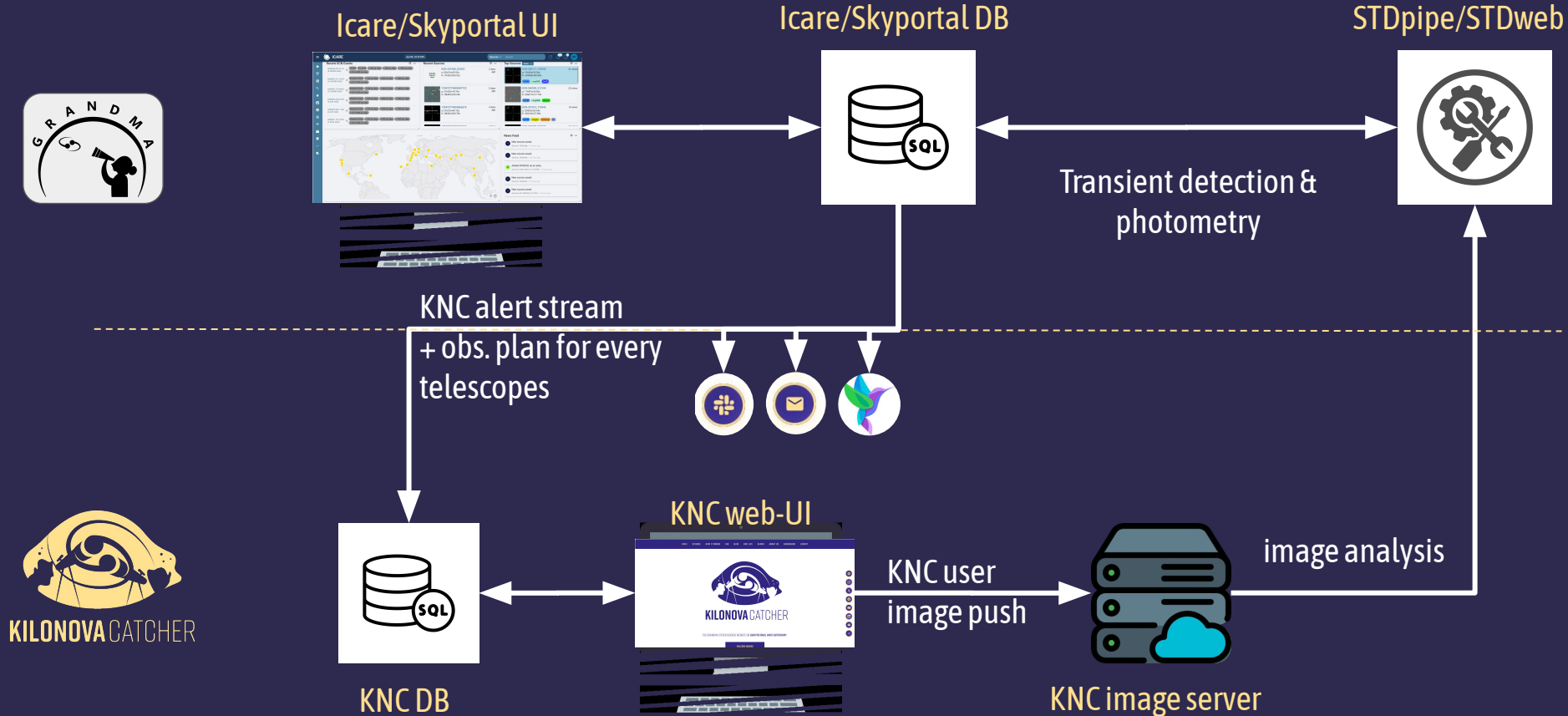




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# The ICARE/Kilonova-Catcher system (less simple view)



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**3**

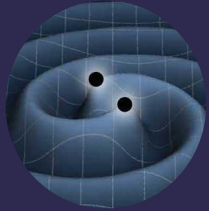
**KNC scientific performances and past campaigns**



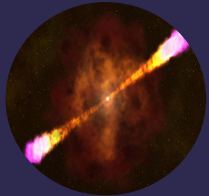
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# Since 2020: scientific outputs

- **10 publications in refereed journals (+3 ongoing projects)**
- **~40 Circulaires GCN (rapport d'observations)**



1. [GRANDMA observations of advanced LIGO's and advanced Virgo's third observational campaign](#)
2. [The first six months of the Advanced LIGO's and Advanced Virgo's third observing run with GRANDMA](#)
3. [Limits on the Ejecta Mass During the Search for Kilonovae Associated with Neutron Star-Black Hole Mergers: A case study of S230518h, GW230529, S230627c and the Low-Significance Candidate S240422ed](#)



1. [GRANDMA and HXMT Observations of GRB 221009A: The Standard Luminosity Afterglow of a Hyperluminous Gamma-Ray Burst](#)
2. [Multiband analyses of the bright GRB 230812B and the associated SN2023peI](#)
3. [Ready for O4 II: GRANDMA observations of Swift GRBs over eight weeks in spring 2022](#)
4. [GRB 241030A: a bright afterglow challenging forward shock emission](#)
5. [Multi-epoch afterglow rebrightenings in GRB 250129A: Evidence for successive shock interactions](#)

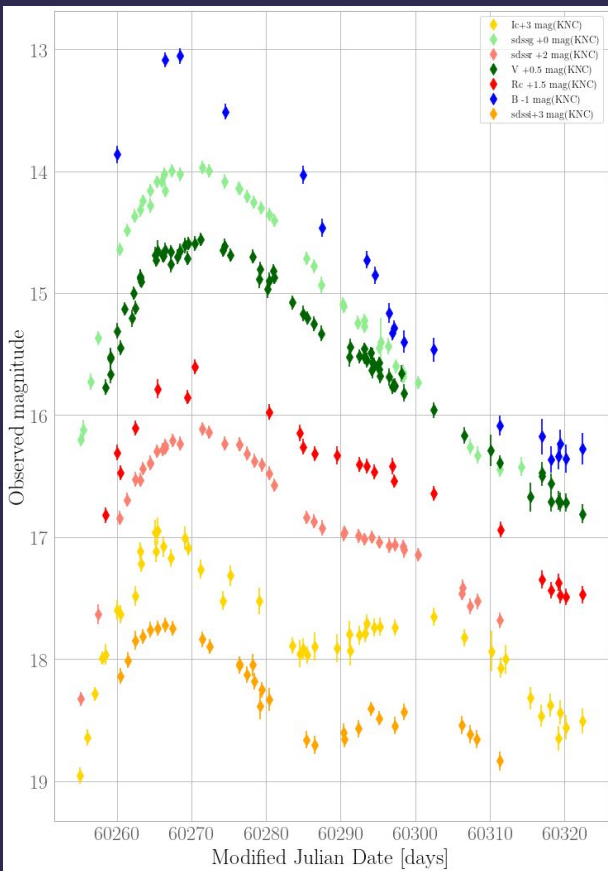


1. [GRANDMA observations of ZTF/Fink transients during summer 2021](#)
2. [Early-time Observations of SN 2023wrc: A Luminous Type Ia Supernova with Significant Unburned Carbon in the Outer Ejecta](#)



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# Nearby SNe monitoring: SN 2023wrk



- >450 images KNC (M. Freeberg, M. Serrau, E. Broens, D. Marchais, R. Ménard, F. Dubois, C. Galdies, D. ST-Gelais, E. Maris, R. Kneip, A. Popowicz, M. Odeh, G. Parent)
- >3 months of continuous observations in VRlc & gri bands

## Early-time Observations of SN 2023wrk: A Luminous Type Ia Supernova with Significant Unburned Carbon in the Outer Ejecta

Jialian Liu<sup>1</sup>, Xiaofeng Wang<sup>1</sup>, Cristina Andrade<sup>2</sup>, Pierre-Alexandre Duverne<sup>3</sup>, Jujia Zhang<sup>4,5,6</sup>, Liping Li<sup>4,5,6</sup>, Zhenyu Wang<sup>4,5,6,7</sup>, Felipe Navarete<sup>8</sup>, Andrea Reguitti<sup>9,10</sup>, Stefan Schuldt<sup>11,12</sup>, Yongzhi Cai<sup>4,5,6</sup>, Alexei V. Filippenko<sup>13</sup>, Yi Yang<sup>1,13</sup>, Thomas G. Brink<sup>13</sup>, WeiKang Zheng<sup>13</sup>, Ali Esamdin<sup>14</sup>, Abdusamatjan Iskandar<sup>14,15</sup>, Chunhai Bai<sup>14</sup>, Jinzhong Liu<sup>14</sup>, Xin Li<sup>16</sup>, Maokai Hu<sup>1</sup>, Gaici Li<sup>1</sup>, Wenxiong Li<sup>17</sup>, Xiaoran Ma<sup>1</sup>, Shengyu Yan<sup>1</sup>, Jun Mo<sup>1</sup>, Christophe Adami<sup>18</sup>, Dalya Akl<sup>19</sup>, Sarah Antier<sup>20</sup>, Eric Broens<sup>21</sup>, Jean-Grégoire Ducoin<sup>22</sup>, Eslam Elhosseiny<sup>23</sup>, Thomas M. Esposito<sup>13</sup>, Michael Freeberg<sup>24,25</sup>, Priyadarshini Gokuldass<sup>26</sup>, Patrice Hello<sup>27</sup>, Sergey Karpov<sup>28</sup>, Isabel Márquez<sup>29</sup>, Martin Mašek<sup>30</sup>, Oleksandra Pyshna<sup>31</sup>, Yodgor Rajabov<sup>32</sup>, Denis Saint-Gelais<sup>33</sup>, Marc Serrau<sup>34</sup>, Oleksii Sokoliuk<sup>35,36</sup>, Ali Takey<sup>23</sup>, Manasanun Tanasan<sup>37</sup>, and Damien Turpin<sup>38</sup>

analyzing these data. D. Turpin, PI of the Kilonova-Catcher, acknowledges the observers of the Kilonova-Catcher program who actively participated in the follow-up campaign: E. Broens, F. Dubois, M. Freeberg, C. Galdies, R. Kneip, D. Marchais, E. Maris, R. Ménard, M. Odeh, G. Parent, A. Popowicz, D. ST-Gelais, and M. Serrau. We also thank Unistellar observers B. Guillet, B. Haremza, G. Di Tommaso, K. Borrot, M. Lorber, M. Shimizu, M. Mitchell, N. Meneghelli, N. Delaunoy, O. Clerget, P. Huth, P. Heafner, P. Kuossari, S. Saibi, S. Price, W. Ono, and Y. Arnaud.



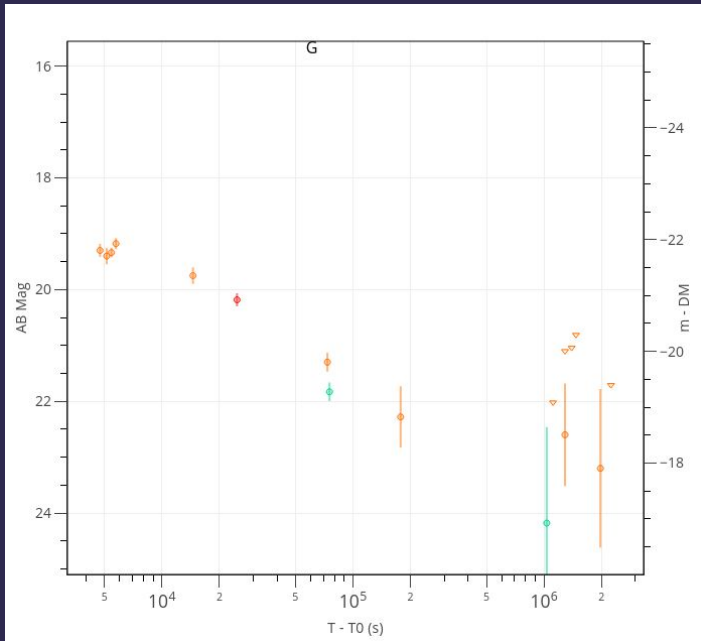
# GRB monitoring

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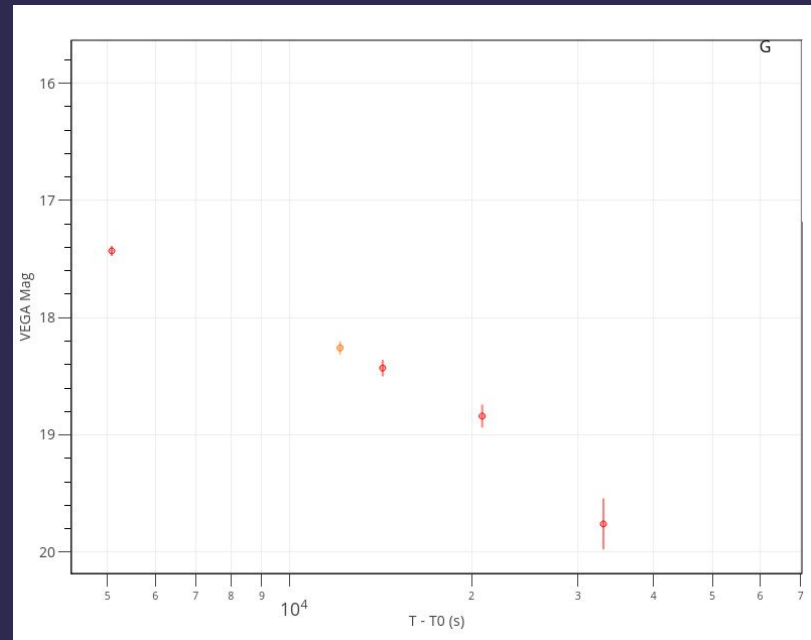
Since 2023: ~45 follow-up of GRBs with ~60% optical detection rate

## GRB 250424A: A Case Study of Energy Injection with Multiwavelength Observations

*Liang et al. submitted to ApJ*



## GRB 260604C: Follow-up campaign ongoing





# GRB/SNe connections

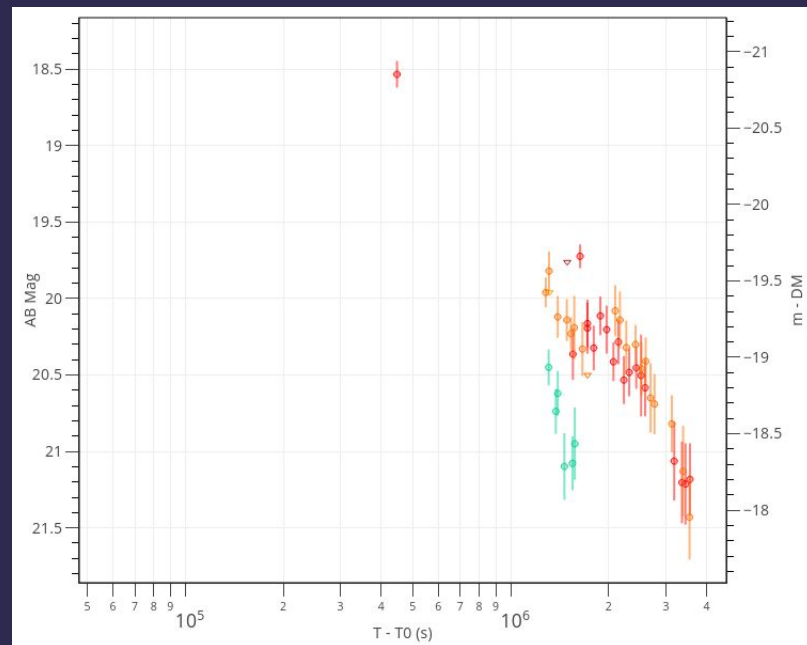
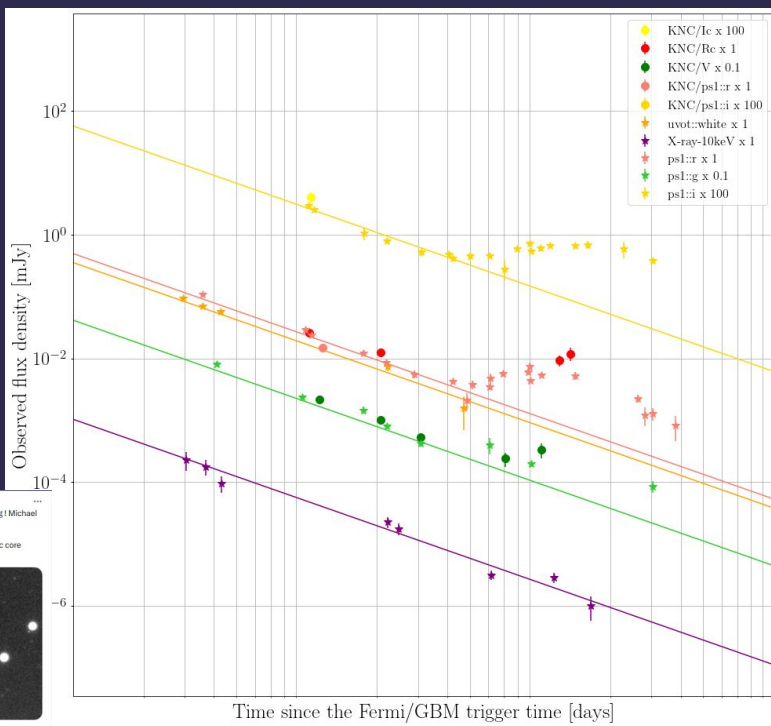
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Since 2023: 2 well identified low-z GRB/SNe association

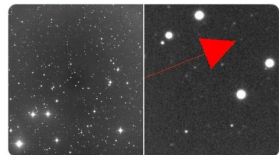
GRB 230812B / SN2023pel Ic-BL ( $z = 0.360$ )

*Hussonot-Desenonges et al. 2024*

GRB 260310A / SN2026fgk Ic-BL ( $z = 0.153$ )



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!



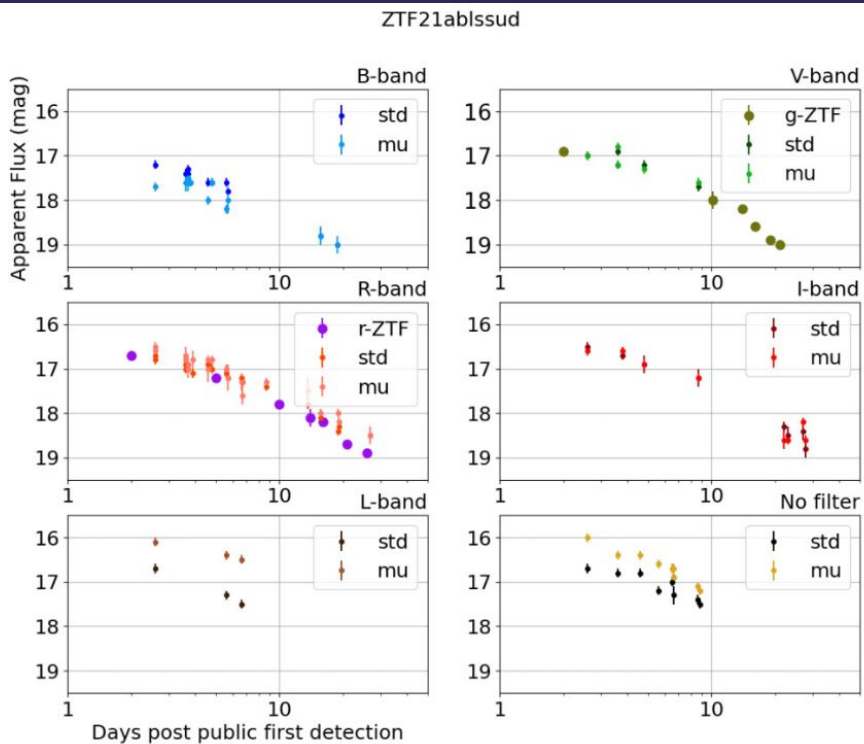


# “Fast” ZTF transients (daily timescale)

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GRANDMA observations of ZTF/Fink transients during summer 2021

*Aivazyan et al. 2022*



ZTF/Fink alerts  
 +  
 Spectro-Photometric follow-up by GRANDMA & KNC  
 =  
 Transient classification

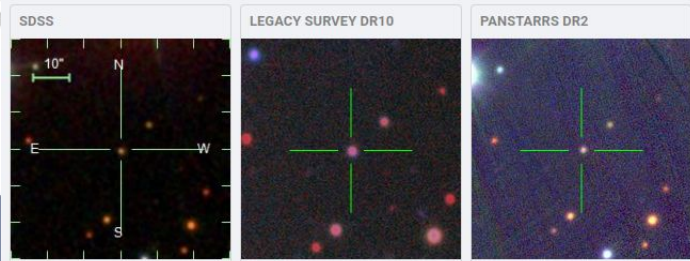
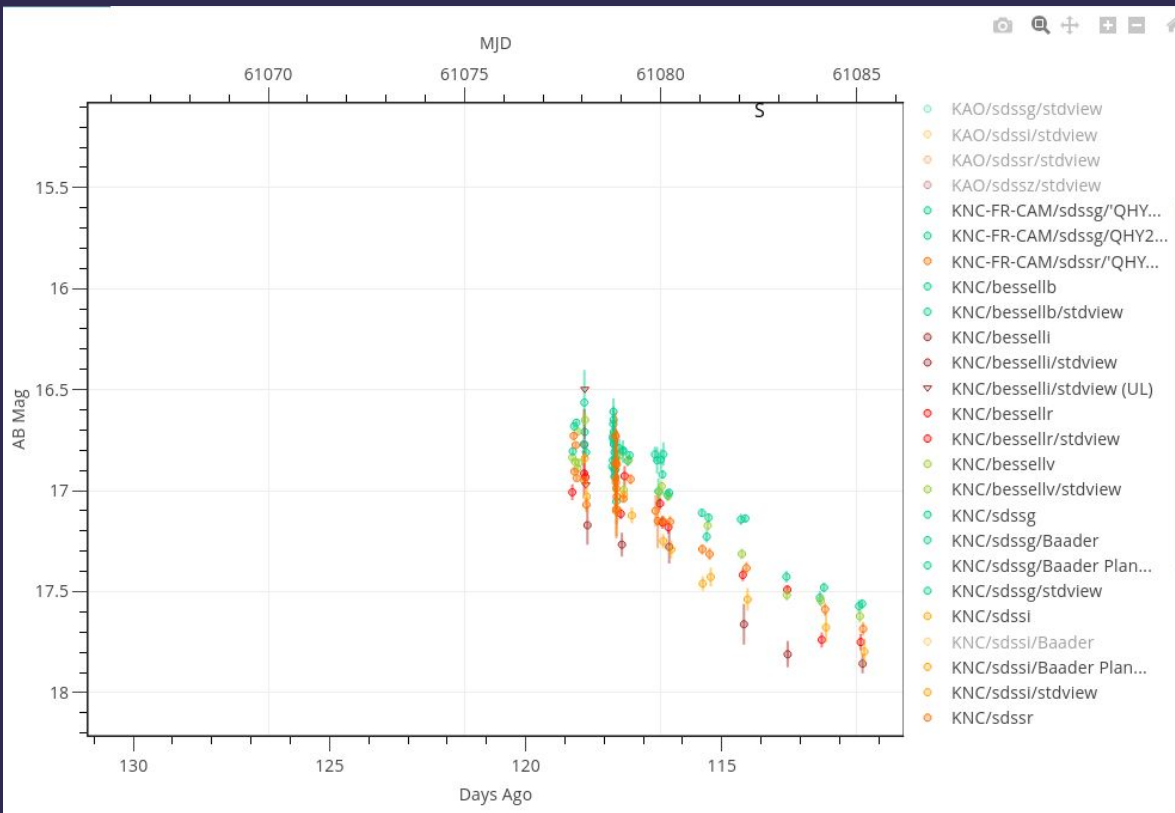
**Table 3.** Results of the simulations of transients with rapid evolution, in order to validate or reject the concordance of each transient using ZTF data with the four models: KNe (Ka2017), supernova (nugent-hyper), GRB afterglows (TrPi2018), and shock cooling (Piro2021). Note that the Bayes factors are evaluated logarithmically.

Transients	Ka2017	TrPi2018	nugent-hyper	Piro2021	light curve
ZTF21abfmbix	-12.38	-15.95	-9.18	-10.1	Supernova Ia
ZTF21absvlrr	-9.78	-16.73	-9.91	-11.07	Supernova Ia
ZTF21abultbr	-2.73	-9.14	-5.24	-4.76	Supernova II
ZTF21ablssud	-6.32	-11.58	-9.83	-9.41	Cataclysmic Variable
ZTF21abfaohe	-12.3	-10.98	-7.47	8.67	Supernova Ia
ZTF21abbzjeq	-8.22	-11.41	-7.49	-8.47	Supernova Ia
ZTF21acceboj	-16.52	-19.44	-14.52	-15.6	Supernova IIb
ZTF21abotose	-6.37	-10.62	-7.41	-7.49	Shock Cooling - Supernova IIp



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# LFBOT candidates and CV-like transients



## Cataclysmic variable AT 2026 cex

- 10 days of follow-up campaign
- hour timescale modulation signal detected likely due to the orbital motion of the binary system



# Summary

KILONOVA CATCHER

Credits: R. Kneip

CV  
AT2026cex

GRB 230812B

Credits: M. Serrau

## The Kilonova Catcher network

- ~240 amateur astronomers distributed in 36 countries
- Trained to answer to multi messenger alerts
- Response to alert in an hour or so
- $R = 21-21.5$  image depth capabilities for hours of exposure
- **Well suited for moderately fast transients: SNe, TDE, LFBOT, CV, nearby KNe**
- Very fast transients such as GRB afterglow are challenging but we already proved our follow-up capabilities in such cases
- **Willing to explore many types of explosive event. Follow-up rate of several campaigns per week is doable**
- **Willing to exploit LSST transients for the next decade**
- **Contact me: [damien.turpin@cea.fr](mailto:damien.turpin@cea.fr)**