

# Neutrino follow-up analysis of GRB 221009A with the KM3NeT detectors

Juan Palacios González (IFIC - Valencia)  
on behalf of the KM3NeT Collaboration

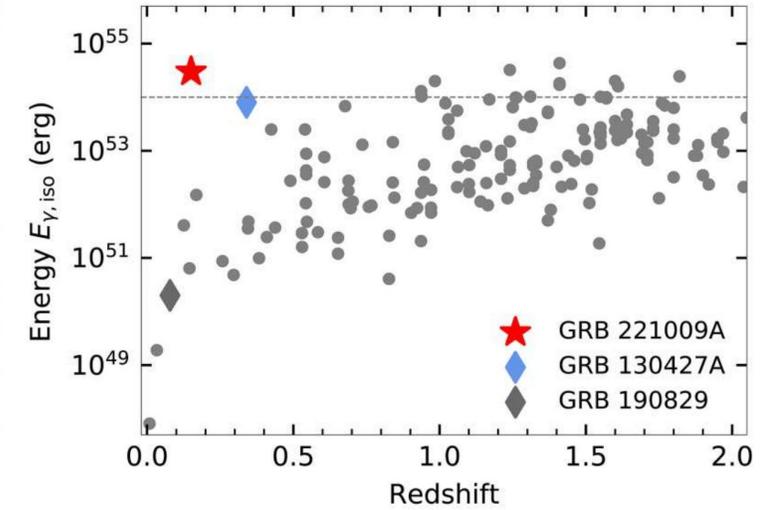
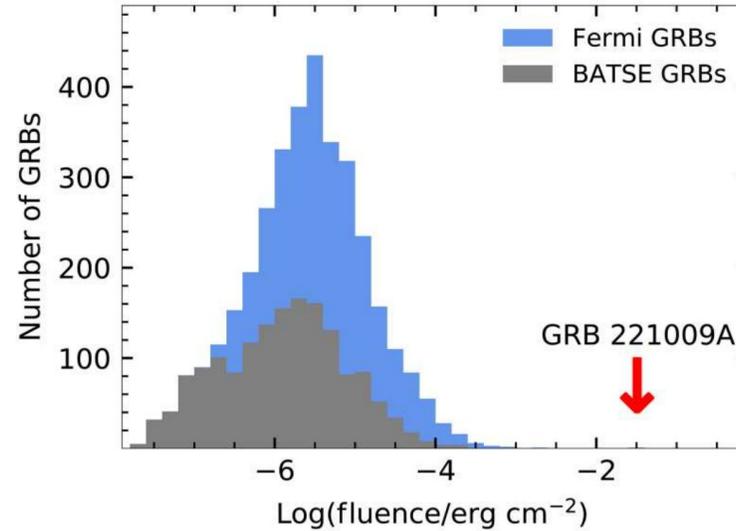
Juan.Palacios@ific.uv.es

24th September 2024

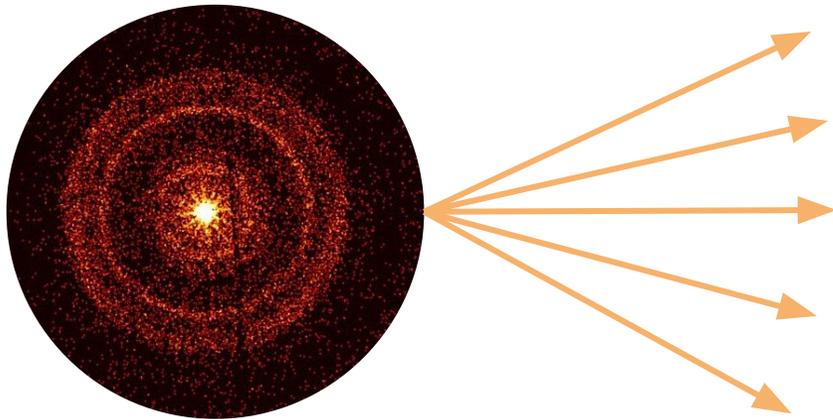


# GRB 221009A

- The **BOAT**: ‘Brightest Of All Time’.
- **Location** by *Swift* (0.61'' 90% CL error):
  - R.A.(J2000) = 288.26452°
  - DEC. (J2000) = + 19.77350°
- **Redshift**  $z = 0.151$
- **Isotropic equivalent E** around  $3 \cdot 10^{54}$  erg (among the highest ever).
- $T_{90}$  estimated to be around 327 s.



O'Connor et al 2023

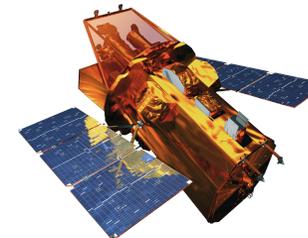


GRB image by Swift



Swift-BAT  
9th October 2022  
14:10:17.0 UT

Fermi-GBM  
9th October 2022  
13:16:59.0 UT



Detection by other  
multiple satellites  
(Konus-Wind, SRG,  
GRBAAlpha, etc).



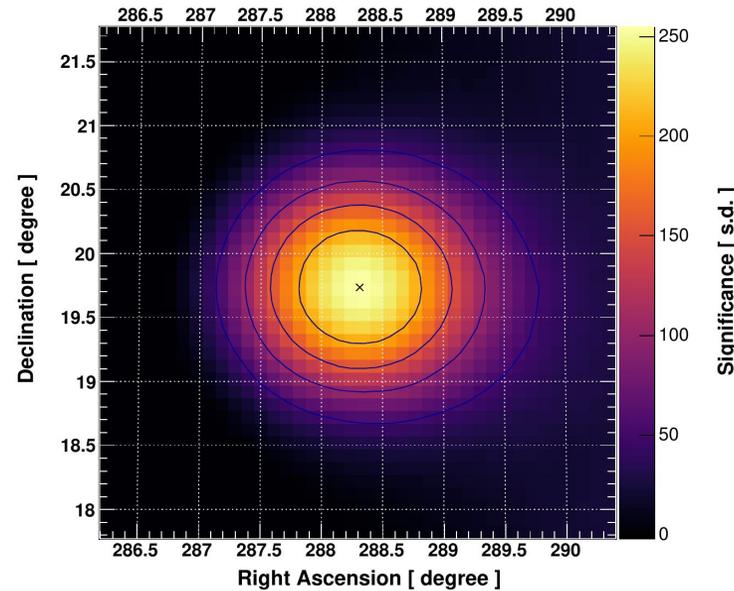
Extensive  
multi-wavelength  
ground follow-up  
campaign

# GRB 221009A

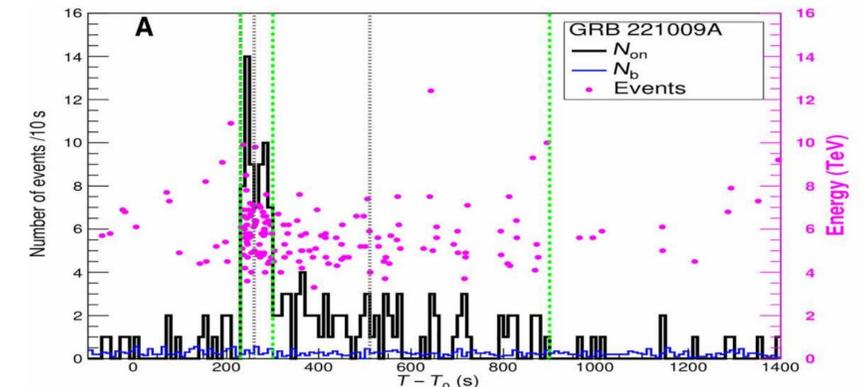
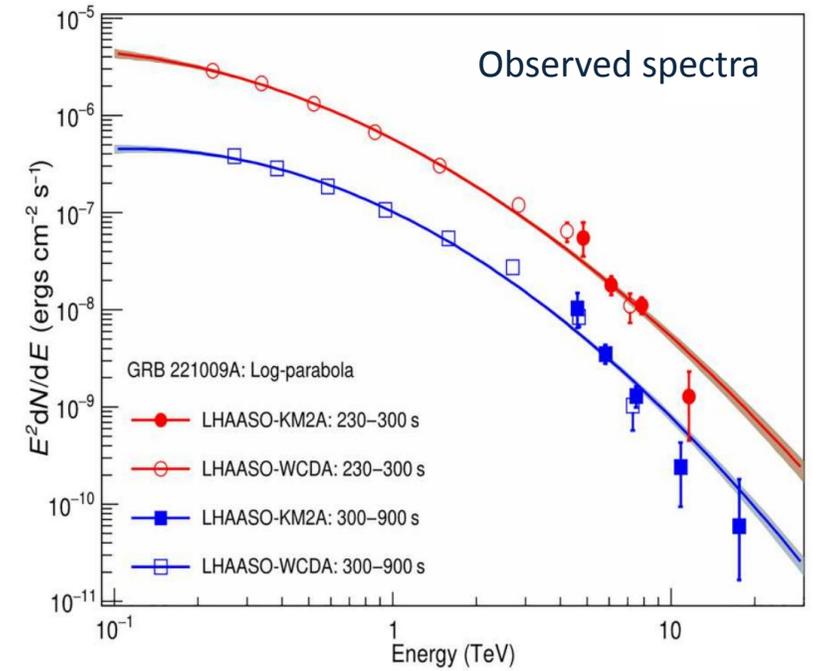
- Observation by **LHAASO** of photons up to around 13 TeV: the highest energy ever detected from a GRB event.
- Also highest energy detection by **Fermi-LAT** from a GRB: photons up to about 99 GeV (instrument saturation).
- The most likely origin is a **collapsar event**.
- A GRB as extraordinary as GRB 221009A is expected to occur only **once every ten thousand years**.



LHAASO, Science, Vol 9, Issue 46, 2023  
 DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.adj2778  
 LHAASO, Science, Vol 380, Issue 6652, 2023  
 DOI: 10.1126/science.adg9328

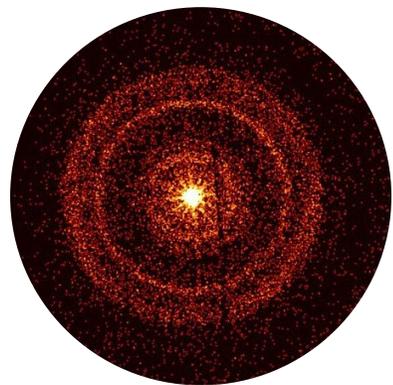


Significance map from LHAASO-WCDA observation



Light curve from LHAASO-WCDA

# Neutrinos from GRBs?



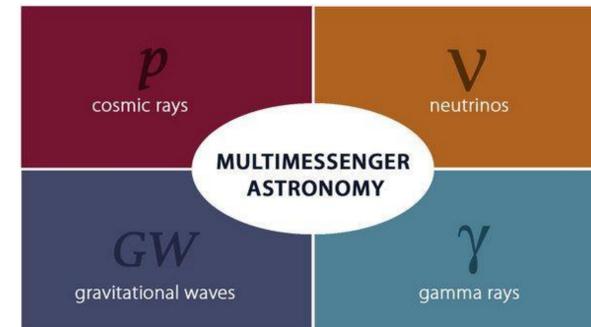
GRB 221009A

No neutrino event has ever been correlated to a GRB event.

Many theoretical propositions:

- Photo-meson production.
- Jet propagation processes.
- Subphotospheric production.
- Neutron collisions, etc.

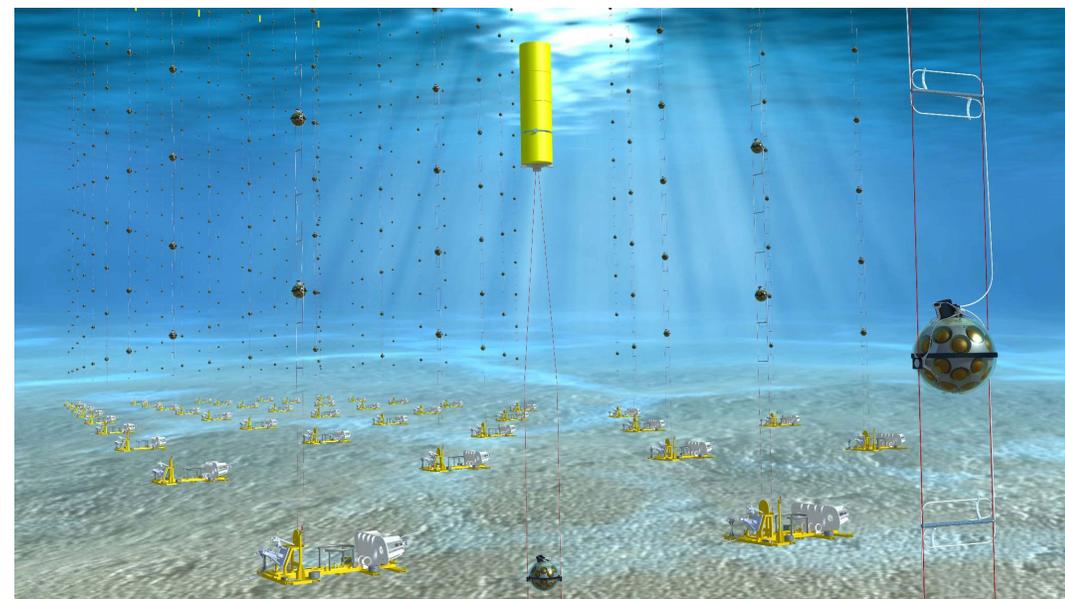
$\nu$  ?



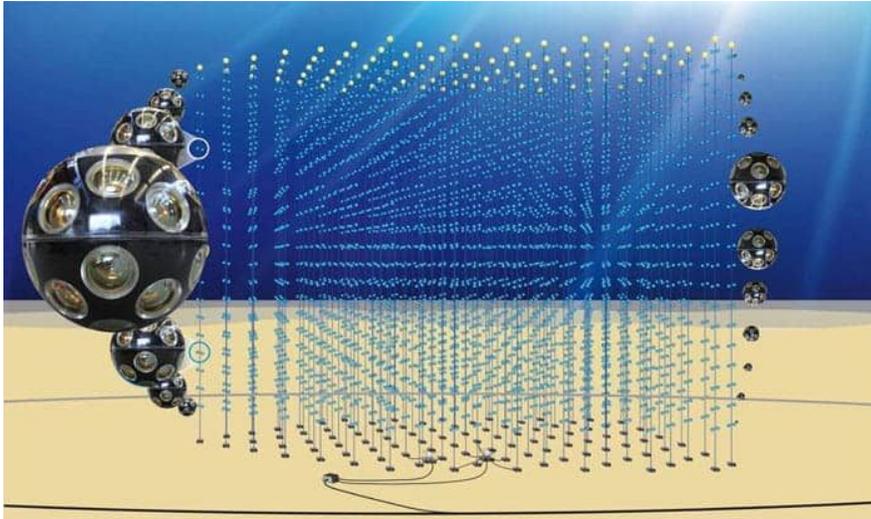
*See the talk by V. Cecchini!*

How do we detect cosmic neutrinos in the GeV to PeV energy range?

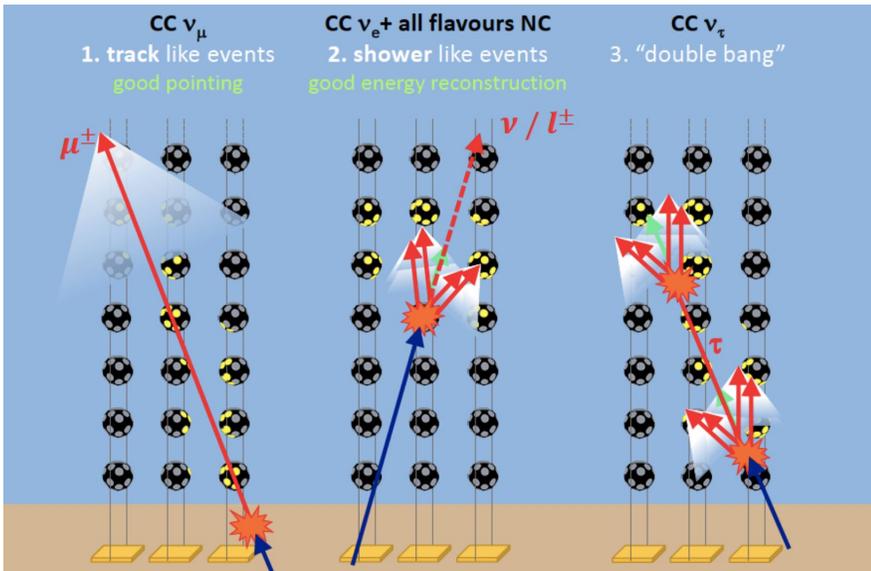
We need **large structures in a transparent media** (like the Mediterranean Sea).



# KM3NeT

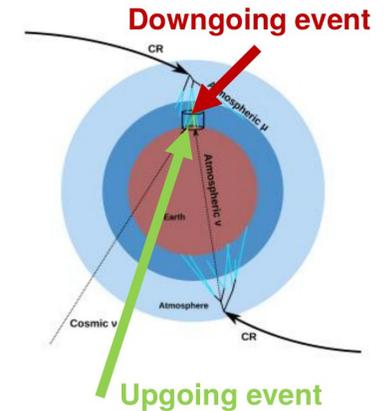
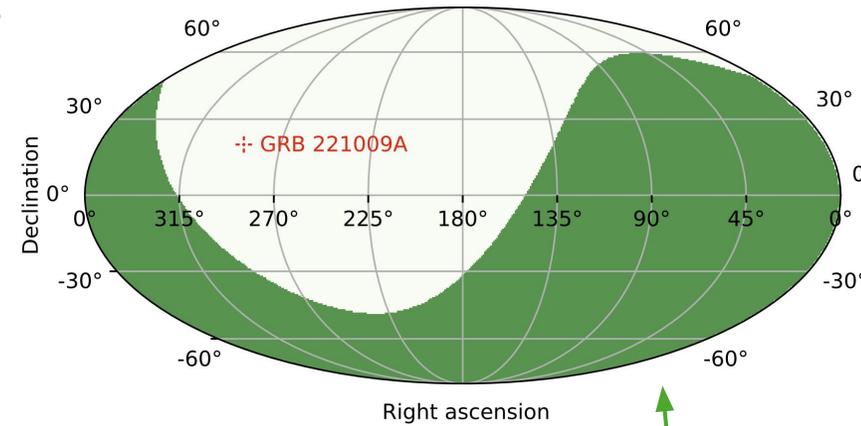


- Array of photomultiplier tubes (PMTs) to detect the **Cherenkov radiation** induced by neutrino interactions.
- **KM3NeT-ORCA:**
  - 40 km offshore **Toulon (France)**, 2450 m depth.
  - DOM spacing: 20 m x 9 m.
  - Sensitive to the **GeV-TeV energy range**.
  - Currently taking data with 23 lines (20% of the full detector).
- **KM3NeT-ARCA:**
  - 100 km offshore **Sicily (Italy)**, 3450 m depth.
  - DOM spacing: 90 m x 36 m.
  - Sensitive to the **TeV-PeV energy range**.
  - Currently taking data with 28 lines (12% of the full detector).
- **MeV neutrinos** can also be detected through a global increase in the PMT coincide rate in single DOMs.
- At the time of GRB 221009A, ARCA and ORCA were taking good-quality data with **21 and 10 detection units** respectively.

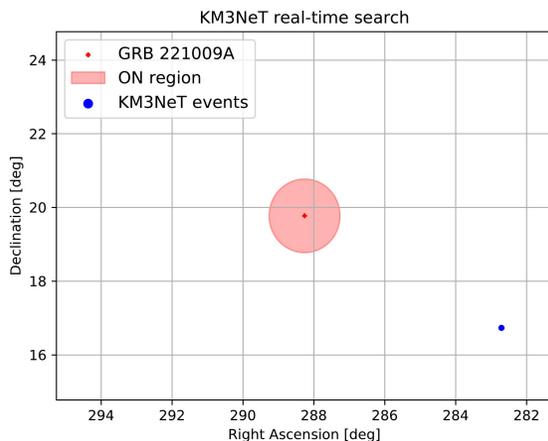


# 'Online' neutrino search

- KM3NeT reported **real-time results**: [GCN #32741](#)
- The event was **above the local horizon of KM3NeT** (a.k.a. downgoing) at  $T_0$ .
- Search time window:  $[T_0 - 50 \text{ s}, T_0 + 5000 \text{ s}]$ .
- **No track-like candidate neutrino event found.**
- A MeV search was also conducted in real-time with no significant detection.
- IceCube also reported real-time results ([GCN #32665](#)) with no candidate neutrino event.



Visibility below the horizon (a.k.a. upgoing)



```
TITLE: GCN CIRCULAR
NUMBER: 32741
SUBJECT: GRB 221009A: search for neutrinos with KM3NeT
DATE: 22/10/13 18:57:37 GMT
FROM: Damien Dornic at CPPM,France <dornic@cppm.in2p3.fr>
```

The KM3NeT Collaboration (<https://www.km3net.org/>) reports:<br><br>

Using the data from the online fast processing chain, the KM3NeT Collaboration has performed a dedicated search for track-like muon neutrino events arriving from the direction of GRB 221009A (Dichiara et al. GCN 32632 (Swift); Veres et al. GCN 32636 (Fermi-GBM)). The search covers the time range of  $[T_0-50\text{s}, T_0+5000\text{s}]$ , with  $T_0$  being the trigger time reported by Fermi-GBM ( $T_0=2022-10-09\ 13:16:59.00$  UTC), during which both KM3NeT detectors were collecting good quality data. However, the GRB location was above the KM3NeT horizon (mean elevation of about  $\sim 40\text{deg}$ ) during the search time window, significantly reducing the point-like source sensitivity. In both detectors, zero events were observed in the search window, while  $\sim 0.1$  were expected from the background. The online fast processing uses preliminary calibrations and detector alignment, which will be superseded in a future elaborated analysis.<br><br>

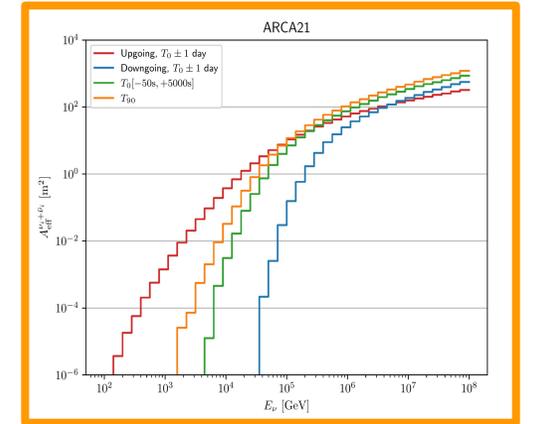
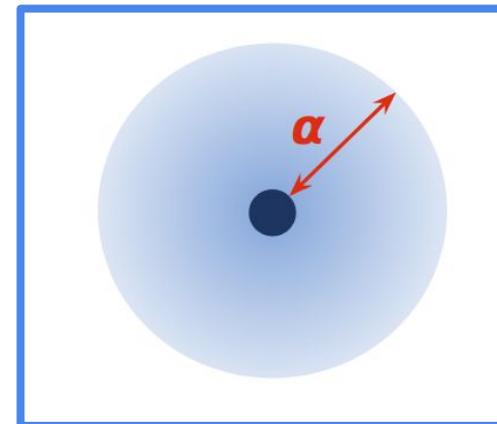
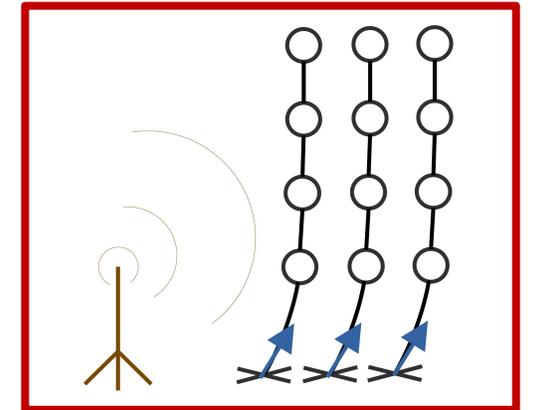
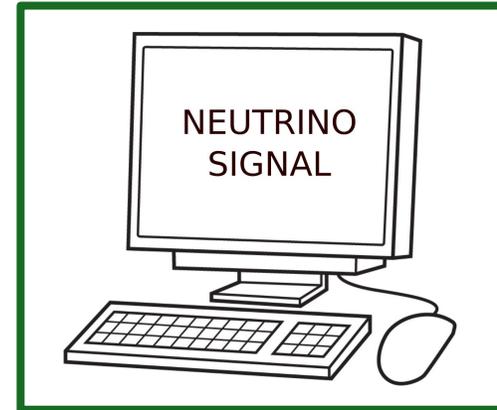
A parallel search has been performed in the MeV range (Eur.Phys.J.C 82 (2022) 4, 317) without any significant neutrino coincidence.<br><br>

KM3NeT is a large undersea (Mediterranean Sea) infrastructure hosting two neutrino detectors, sensitive to burst of supernova neutrinos in the MeV range and to astrophysical neutrinos in the GeV-PeV energy range: ARCA at high energy and ORCA at low energy. A total of 21 and 11 detection lines are currently in operation in ARCA and ORCA, respectively.

# 'Offline' neutrino search

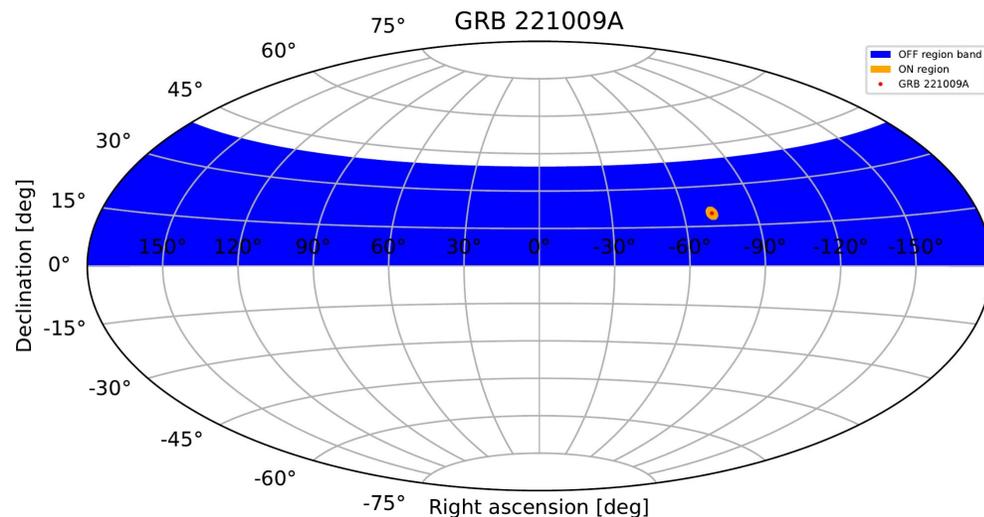
Later, a refined search is done including:

- The use of **Monte Carlo simulations** to improve the event selections and to compute upper limits.
- Addition of **systematic effects**:
  - Data recalibrated including **dynamical positioning** of the detection units by acoustic methods.
  - Evaluation of the **Point Spread Function**:
    - ARCA21:  $0.8^\circ$  median value for  $E^{-2}$  spectrum.
    - ORCA10:  $1.2^\circ$  median value for  $E^{-2}$  spectrum.
  - Estimation of the systematics on the **effective area** ( $\sim 30\%$  impact) due to:
    - Seawater properties: light absorption length, etc.
    - PMT quantum efficiency, etc.

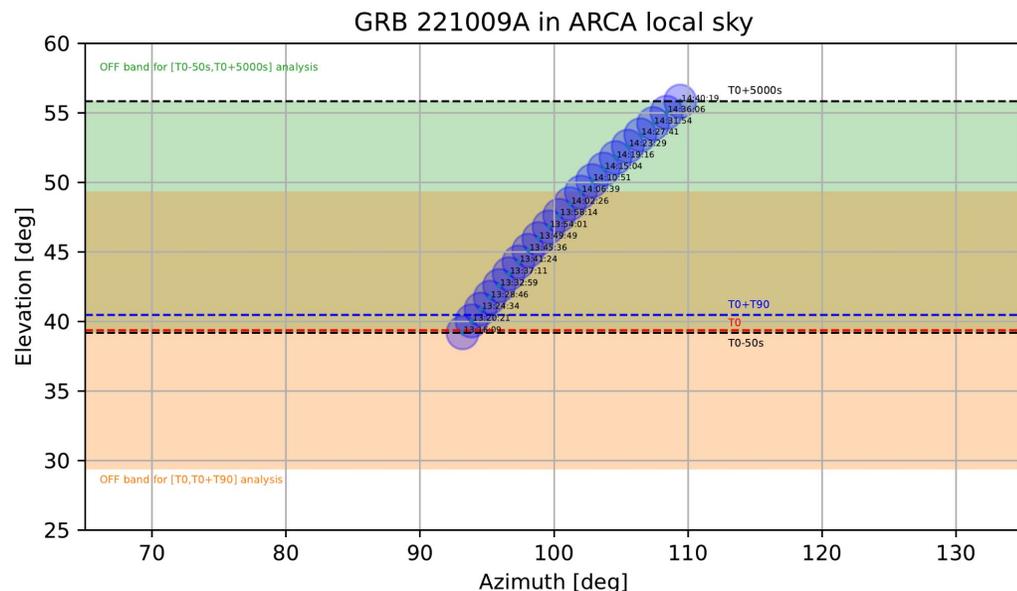


# Search method

Equatorial coordinates



Local coordinates



- **ON region:** where the **signal** is expected. Circular area region optimized for each analysis.
- **OFF region:** band in the local/equatorial sky used to compute the **expected background**:

$$n_{\text{bckg}} = \frac{T_{\text{ON}}}{T_{\text{OFF}}} \times \frac{\Omega_{\text{ON}}}{\Omega_{\text{OFF}}} \times N_{\text{OFF}}$$

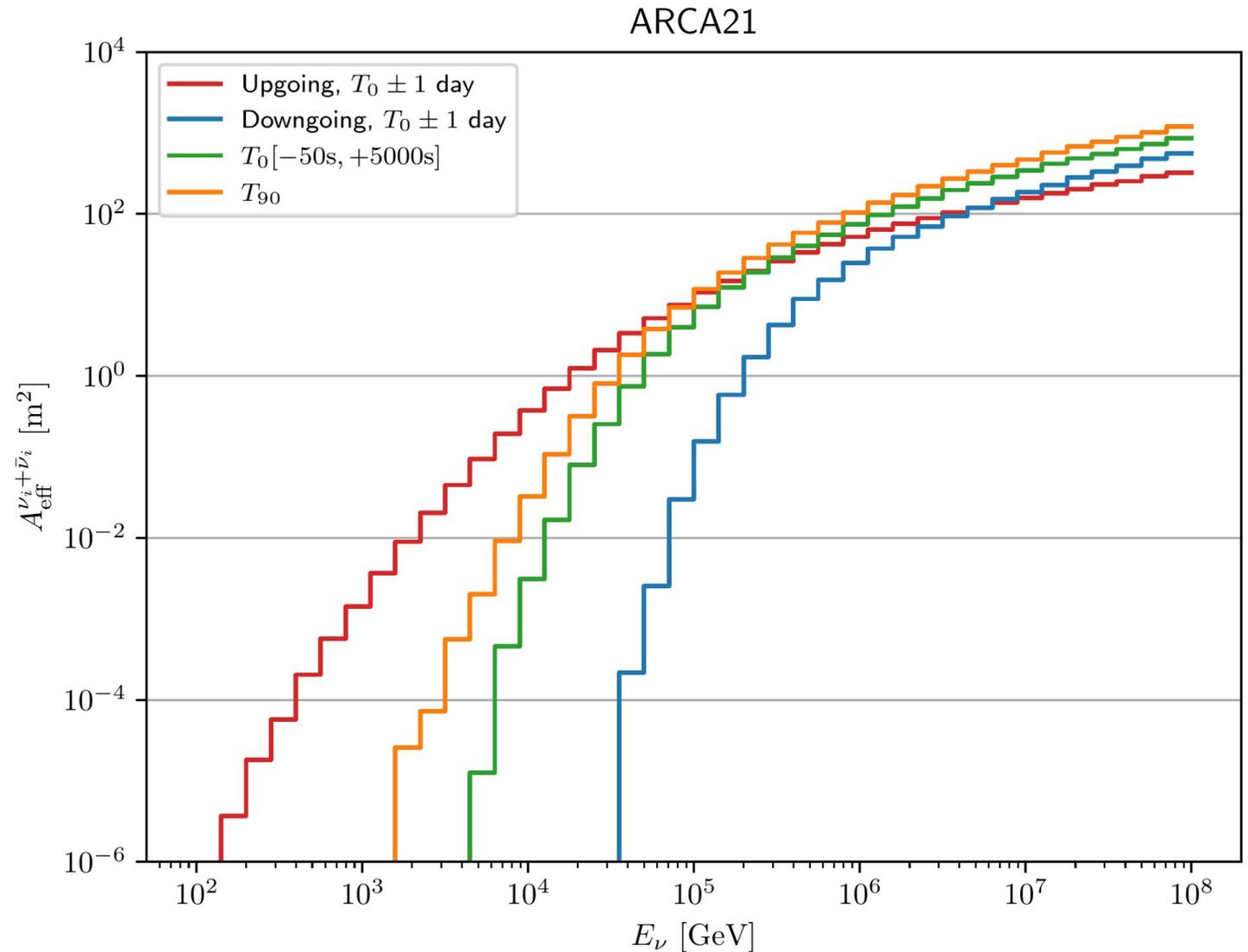
- **Time windows analysed (both ARCA and ORCA):**
  - Above the day range (equatorial coordinates):
    - $T_0 \pm 1$  day upgoing selection. (the integrated visibility in one day is 45%).
    - $T_0 \pm 1$  day downgoing selection.
  - Below the day range (local coordinates):
    - $[T_0 - 50 \text{ s}, T_0 + 5000 \text{ s}]$  downgoing selection.
    - $[T_0, T_0 + T_{90}]$  downgoing selection.

# Event selection

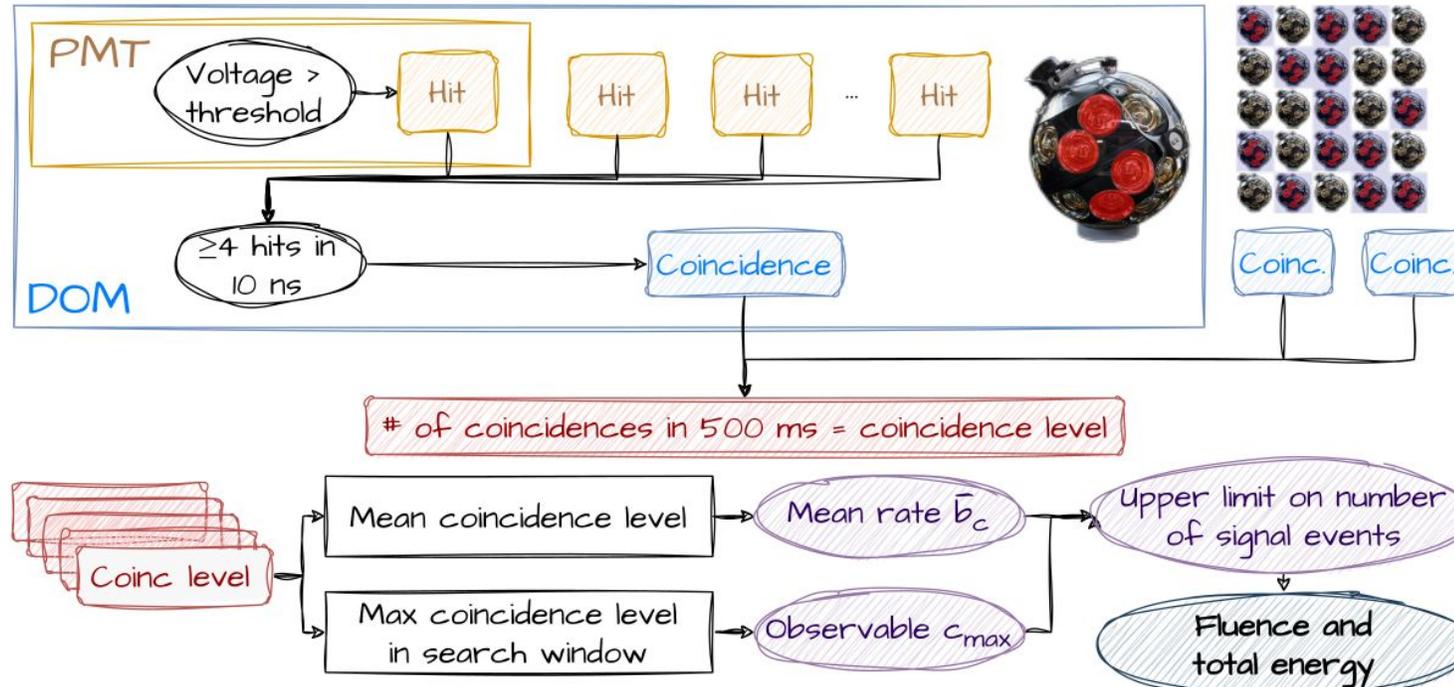
- Optimization procedure:
  1. Reduce the background so that **one event in the ON region** is enough to reach  $3\sigma$  significance.
  2. Maximize the expected signal (from MC simulations).
- A differential neutrino flux proportional to  $E^{-2}$  is assumed.

$$N_s = \int dt \int dE \cdot \Phi(E) \cdot A_{\text{eff}}^{\delta}(E)$$

- Extended datasets used to estimate the background:
  - ARCA21: around 70 days.
  - ORCA10: around 40 days.
- Only track-like events used.



# MeV search



Results for quasi-thermal neutrino flux  $F_{\bar{\nu}_e}(E) \propto E^2 \exp(-3E/\langle E \rangle)$  at  $\langle E \rangle = 15$  MeV

	$T_{90}$	$T_0[-50 \text{ s}, +5000 \text{ s}]$
Maximum coincidence level	27	32
Expected background	29	33
pvalue	0.99	0.79
Total $\bar{\nu}_e$ flux [cm <sup>-2</sup> ]	$2.5 \times 10^9$	$4.8 \times 10^9$
$E_{\text{tot},\nu}^{\text{iso},90\%}$ [erg]	$5.1 \times 10^{62}$	$6.7 \times 10^{62}$

Image credit: M. Lamoureux

Assuming quasi-thermal spectrum

- Identification of a **burst of electron  $\bar{\nu}$**  through a global increase in the PMT coincidence rate.
- Sensitive energy range: 5 - 30 MeV.
- Time windows inspected:  $[T_0, T_0 + T_{90}]$  and  $[T_0 - 50 \text{ s}, T_0 + 5000 \text{ s}]$ .
- **No significant excess observed.** Determination of upper limits on the total time-integrated neutrino flux and on the total energy emitted in isotropically distributed MeV neutrinos by the source.

# Results

- **No candidate events found within the ON region.**

- **Upper limits on the  $\nu$  emission:**

$$\Phi_0^{\text{UL}} = \frac{\mu_{90}^{\text{FC}}(n_b)}{\int dt \int dE \cdot (E/E_0)^{-\gamma} \cdot A_{\text{eff}}^{\delta}(E)}$$

- The most restrictive results are those for the **upgoing searches**.

- $E_{\text{min}}$  ( $E_{\text{max}}$ ): 5% (95%) quantiles of the energy range for the neutrino flux.

- **Fluence: per-flavour neutrino flux integrated in energy and time:**

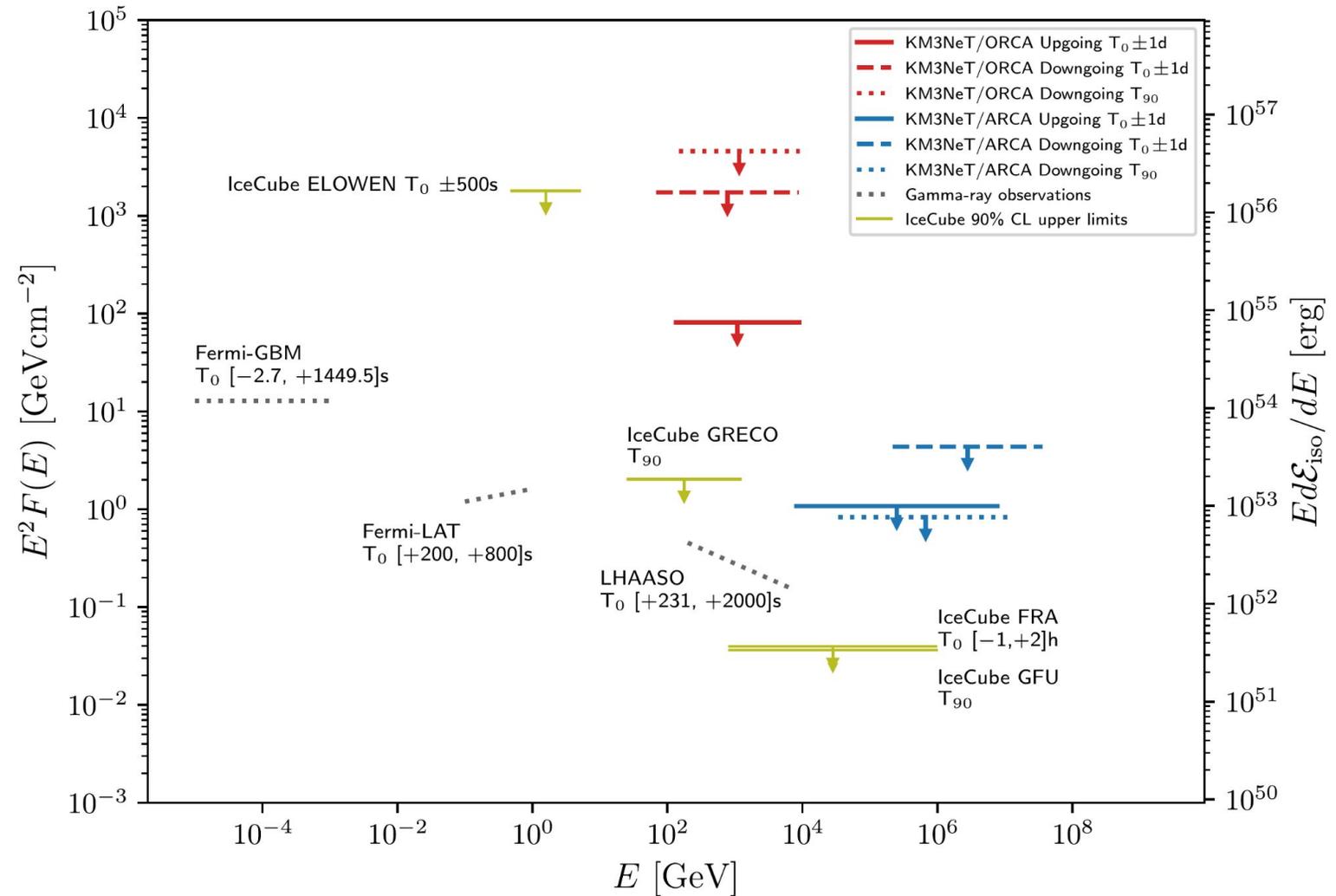
$$\mathcal{F}^{\text{UL}} = \Delta T \int_{E_{\text{min}}}^{E_{\text{max}}} dE \cdot E \cdot \Phi_0^{\text{UL}} \cdot \left(\frac{E}{E_0}\right)^{-\gamma}$$

SEARCH		KM3NeT 90% CL UPPER LIMITS ON NEUTRINO EMISSION FROM GRB 221009A					
		Results for neutrino flux $\Phi(E) = \Phi_0(E/E_0)^{-2}$ at $E_0 = 1 \text{ GeV}$					
ARCA (TeV–PeV)	RoI	Expected	$\Phi_0$ UL	$E_{\text{min}}$	$E_{\text{max}}$	Fluence $\mathcal{F}$ UL	$E^2 F(E)$ UL
	radius	background ( $\times 10^{-3}$ )	[ $\text{GeV}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ]	[TeV]	[PeV]	[ $\text{GeV cm}^{-2}$ ]	[ $\text{GeV cm}^{-2}$ ]
$T_{90}$	$2.1^\circ$	$2.64 \pm 0.02$	$2.5 \times 10^{-3}$	34	13	4.9	0.83
$T_0[-50 \text{ s}, +5000 \text{ s}]$	$1.1^\circ$	$2.53 \pm 0.04$	$2.8 \times 10^{-4}$	110	27	7.9	1.4
$T_0 \pm 1\text{d}$ downgoing	$1.0^\circ$	$2.6 \pm 0.1$	$2.5 \times 10^{-5}$	220	36	22	4.4
$T_0 \pm 1\text{d}$ upgoing	$1.7^\circ$	$2.7 \pm 0.2$	$6.2 \times 10^{-6}$	8.1	7.7	7.4	1.1
		Results for neutrino flux $\Phi(E) = \Phi_0(E/E_0)^{-2}$ at $E_0 = 1 \text{ GeV}$					
ORCA (GeV–TeV)	RoI	Expected	$\Phi_0$ UL	$E_{\text{min}}$	$E_{\text{max}}$	Fluence $\mathcal{F}$ UL	$E^2 F(E)$ UL
	radius	background ( $\times 10^{-3}$ )	[ $\text{GeV}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ]	[GeV]	[TeV]	[ $\text{GeV cm}^{-2}$ ]	[ $\text{GeV cm}^{-2}$ ]
$T_{90}$	$2.0^\circ$	$2.61 \pm 0.04$	14	150	9.1	$1.9 \times 10^4$	$4.5 \times 10^3$
$T_0[-50 \text{ s}, +5000 \text{ s}]$	$5.4^\circ$	$2.6 \pm 0.2$	1.9	54	8.7	$4.9 \times 10^4$	$9.6 \times 10^3$
$T_0 \pm 1\text{d}$ downgoing	$1.0^\circ$	$2.7 \pm 0.3$	$1.0 \times 10^{-2}$	68	8.8	$8.5 \times 10^3$	$1.7 \times 10^3$
$T_0 \pm 1\text{d}$ upgoing	$1.2^\circ$	$2.7 \pm 0.3$	$4.7 \times 10^{-4}$	130	9.8	$3.5 \times 10^2$	81
		Results for quasi-thermal neutrino flux $F_{\bar{\nu}_e}(E) \propto E^2 \exp(-3E/\langle E \rangle)$ at $\langle E \rangle = 15 \text{ MeV}$					
MeV search	Maximum	Expected	$p$ -value	$E_{\text{min}}$	$E_{\text{max}}$	Total $\bar{\nu}_e$ flux	$E_{\text{tot},\nu}^{\text{iso},90\%}$
	coincidence	background		[MeV]	[MeV]	[ $\text{cm}^{-2}$ ]	[erg]
$T_{90}$	level						
$T_{90}$	27	29	0.99	5	30	$2.5 \times 10^9$	$5.1 \times 10^{62}$
$T_0[-50 \text{ s}, +5000 \text{ s}]$	32	33	0.79			$4.8 \times 10^9$	$9.7 \times 10^{62}$

# Results

- $E^2F(E)$ : per-flavour energy-scaled time-integrated neutrino flux.
- **Multi-messenger plot:** KM3NeT limits + IceCube limits + some gamma-ray measurements for comparison.
- For KM3NeT, GRB 221009A happened in the non-visible region, unlike IceCube.
- About a 15% improvement in sensitivity is expected upon detector completion.
- Future analyses will also incorporate cascade events.

NOTE: Plot updated with the latest results reported by IceCube, check (2023, ApJL, 946, L26).



# Conclusions

- Multiple searches for neutrinos coming from **GRB 221009A** have been performed with the KM3NeT detectors.
- **No coincident neutrino events** found.
- **Upper limits** on the neutrino emission have been determined. These are limited by:
  - Visibility of the event.
  - Current (partial) detector configuration.
- For future GRBs, these results will improve with larger detector configurations and the addition of cascade-like events.
- The **Online Platform of KM3NeT** continues searching for GRB-neutrino correlations, while the detector size is growing.
- More information at the [JCAP publication](#).



**J**ournal of **C**osmology and **A**stroparticle **P**hysics  
An IOP and SISSA journal

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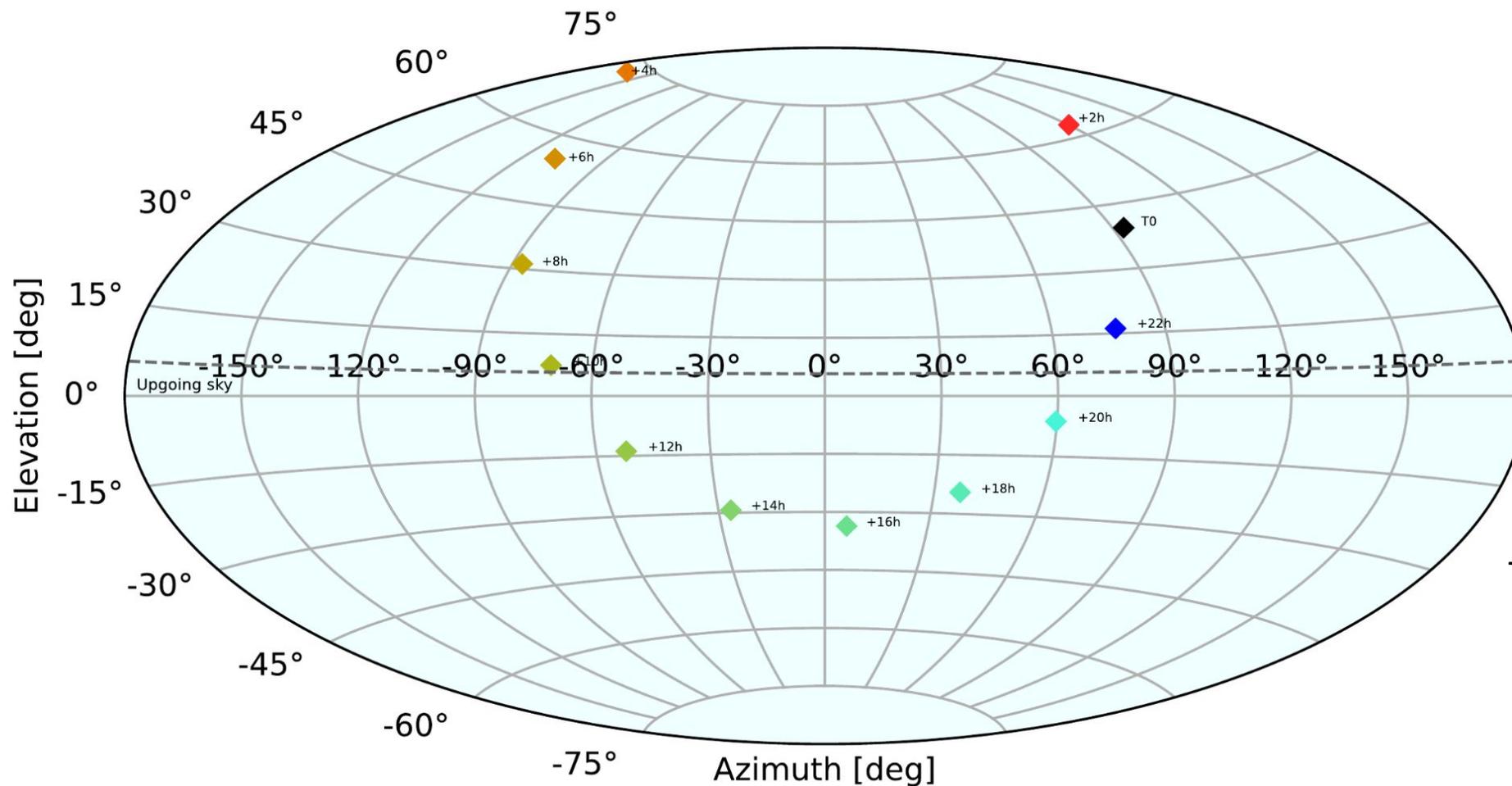
Search for neutrino emission from GRB 221009A using  
the KM3NeT ARCA and ORCA detectors



The KM3NeT collaboration

Backup

# Local sky movement



The integrated upgoing visibility is 45% in one day.

Movement of GRB 221009A in the local sky of KM3NeT/ARCA.

# Field of view

