

**HERMES**  
SP



The 4<sup>th</sup> COSPAR Symposium  
Small Satellites for Sustainable Science and Development  
Herzliya, Israel, November 7<sup>th</sup> 2019

# The HERMES project

High Energy Rapid Modular Ensemble of Satellites  
Probing Space-Time Quantum Foam  
and

Hunting for Gravitational Wave Electromagnetic Counterparts

**Andrea Sanna, University of Cagliari**

Luciano Burderi, Alessandro Riggio – University of Cagliari

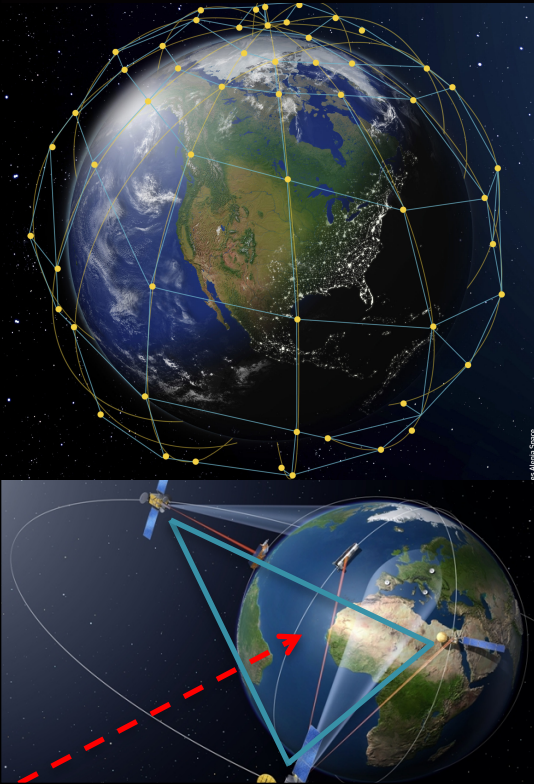
Tiziana Di Salvo – University of Palermo

Fabrizio Fiore, Alessandro Papitto – INAF – Rome Astronomical Observatory  
and many others...

**Please, visit our websites:**

<http://hermes.dsf.unica.it>

<http://hermes-sp.eu>

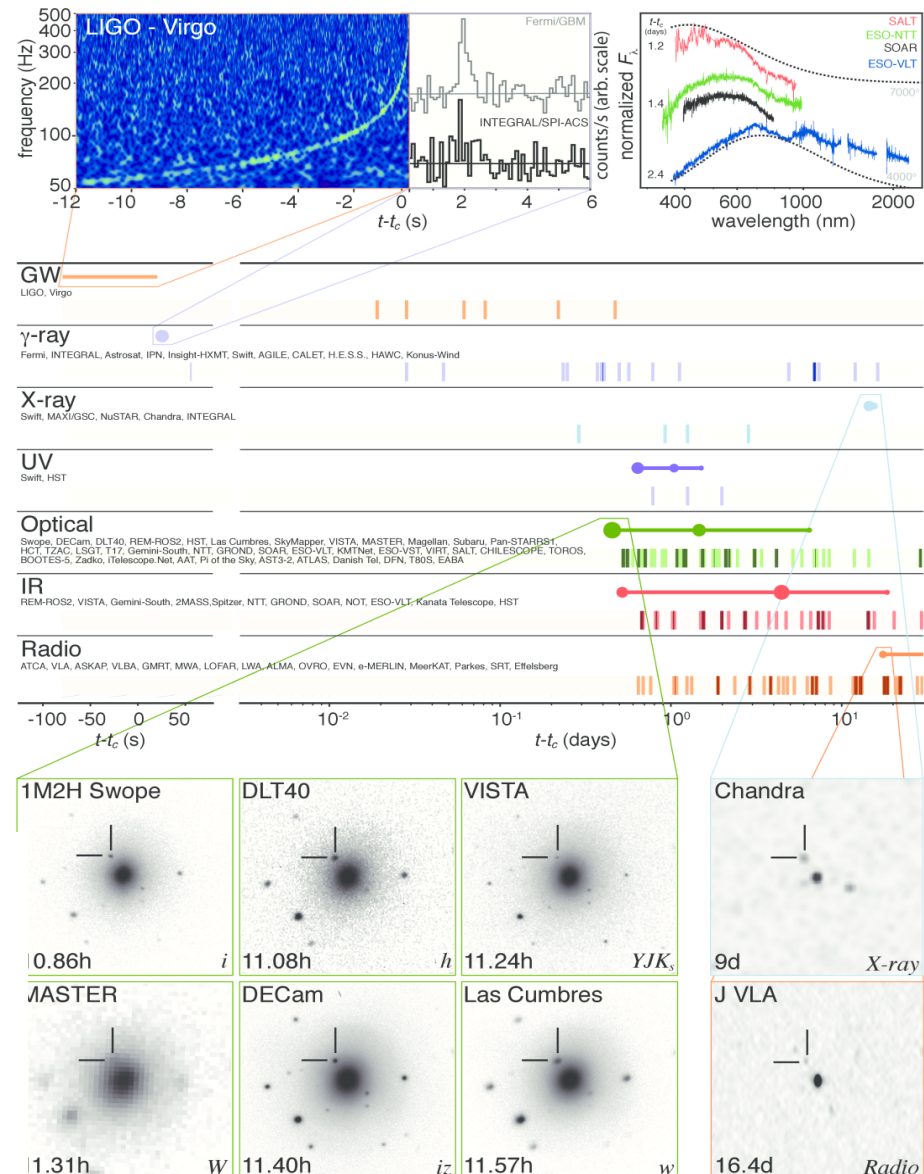
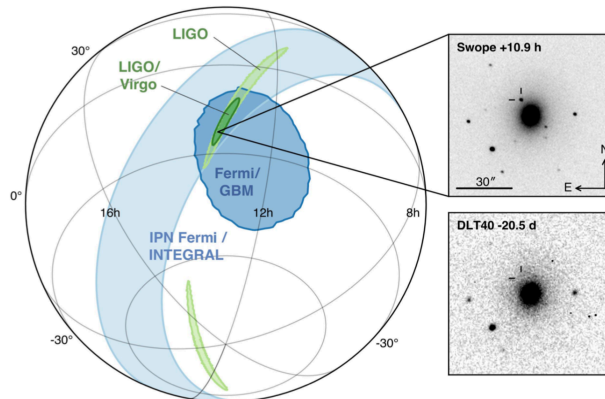


# The Multi-Messenger Astronomy

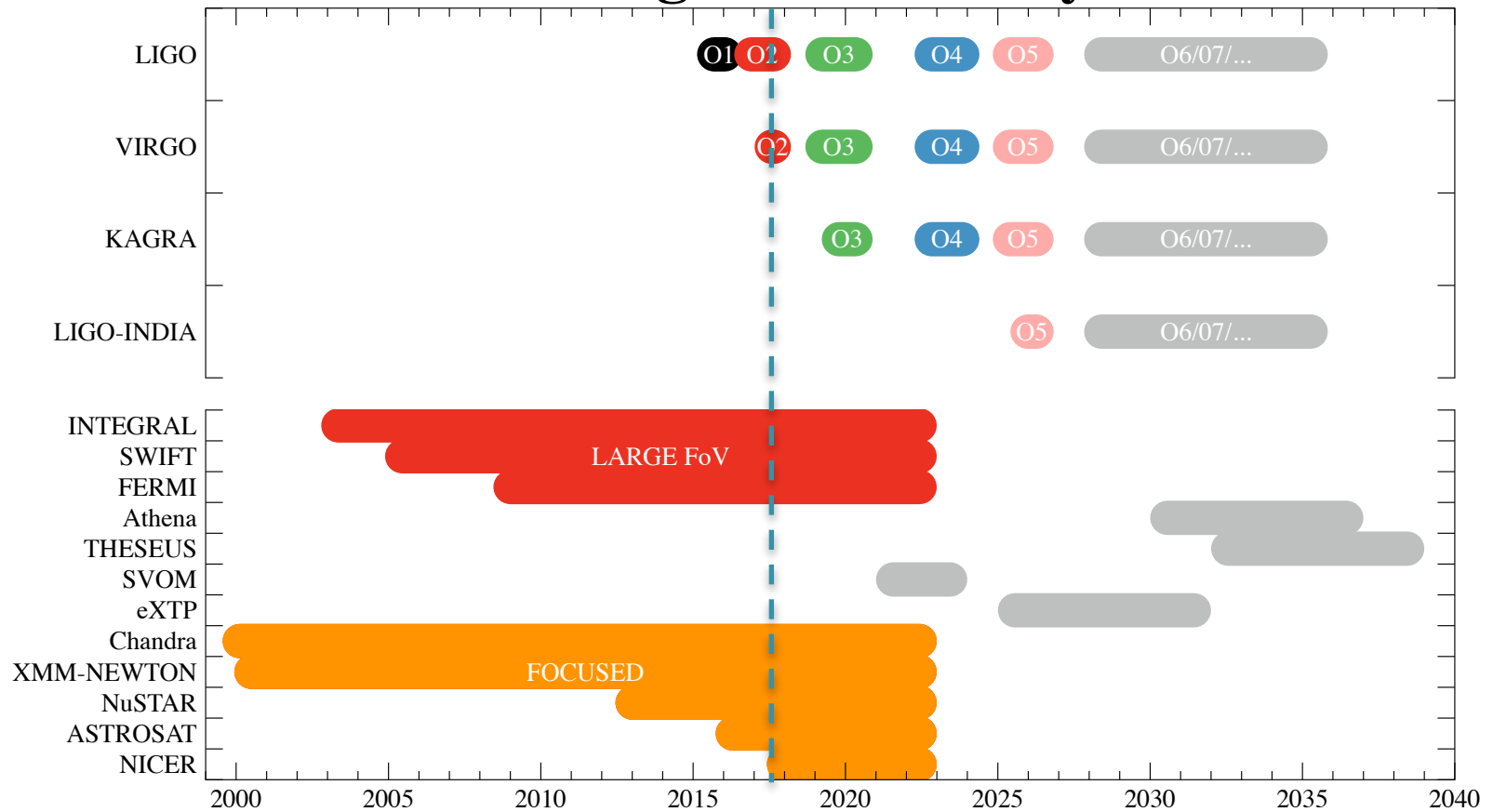
## GW170817



- NS-NS merging
- Host galaxy NGC 4993
- $\sim 40$  Mpc
- 70 observatories



# The Multi-Messenger Astronomy Paradox



- **2025+ LIGO/VIRGO/KAGRA/LIGO-INDIA will detect GW170817 within ~ 300 Mpc with localisation accuracy ~10 deg<sup>2</sup>**

- **FERMI GBM would not have been able to detect GRB 170817A at  $D > 60$  Mpc**

**We need a All-sky Monitor at least 10×GBM Area for letting Multi-Messenger Astronomy to develop from infancy to maturity! <sub>3</sub>**

# HERMES in a nutshell

## High Energy Rapid Modular Ensemble of Satellites

### Aims:

- **all Sky Monitor** for fast and accurate detection of the position of bright, transient, high-energy events
- inspect fine temporal structure of transients
- **first dedicated experiment in Quantum Gravity**

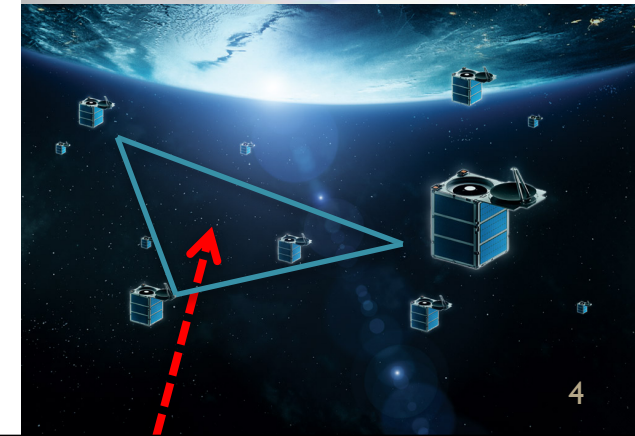
### How:

**temporal triangulation** of signals detected by a **swarm of LEO nano/micro satellites** equipped with:

- keV-Mev scintillators
- sub  $\mu$ s time resolution
- low X-ray background

### Pros:

- modularity
- limited cost
- quick development





# Principles of temporal triangulation

Determination of source position through delays in Time of Arrival (ToA) of an impulsive (variable) signal over 3 (or more) spatially separate detectors

position of the source in the sky:

$\alpha, \delta$  (2 parameters,  $N_{\text{PAR}} = 2$ )

$i = 1, \dots, N_{\text{SATELLITES}}$

$j = 1, \dots, N_{\text{SATELLITES}}$

$\text{DEL}_{ij} = \text{ToA}(i) - \text{ToA}(j)$

$\text{DEL}_{ij} = -\text{DEL}_{ji}; \text{DEL}_{ii} = -\text{DEL}_{jj} = 0$

Number of (non trivial) different  $\text{DEL}_{ij}$ :

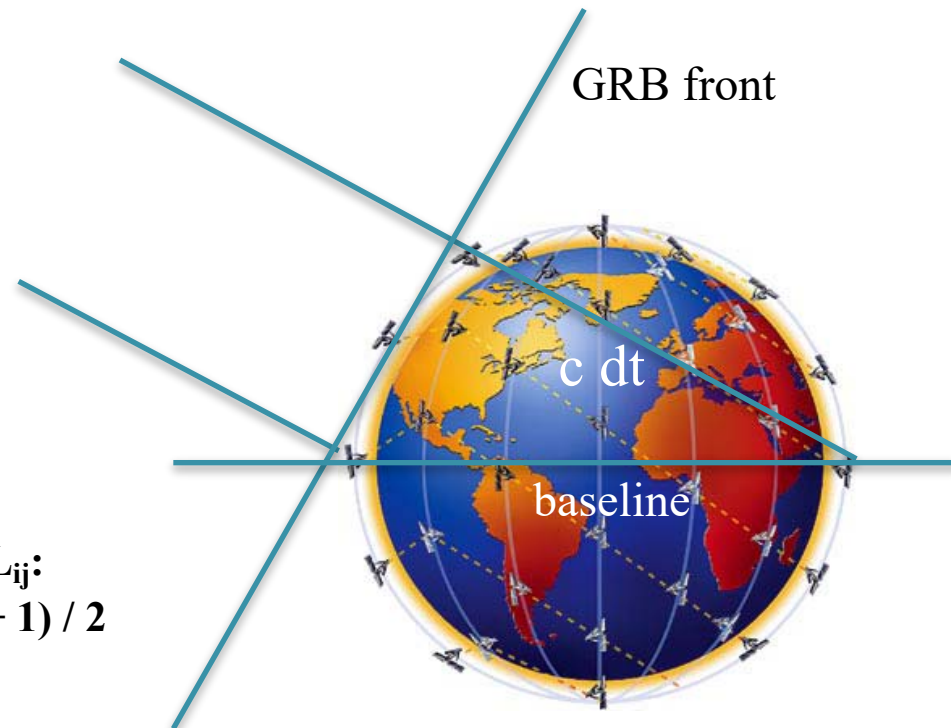
$N_{\text{DELAYS}} = N_{\text{SATELLITES}} \times (N_{\text{SATELLITES}} - 1) / 2$

Number of independent  $\text{DEL}_{ij}$ :

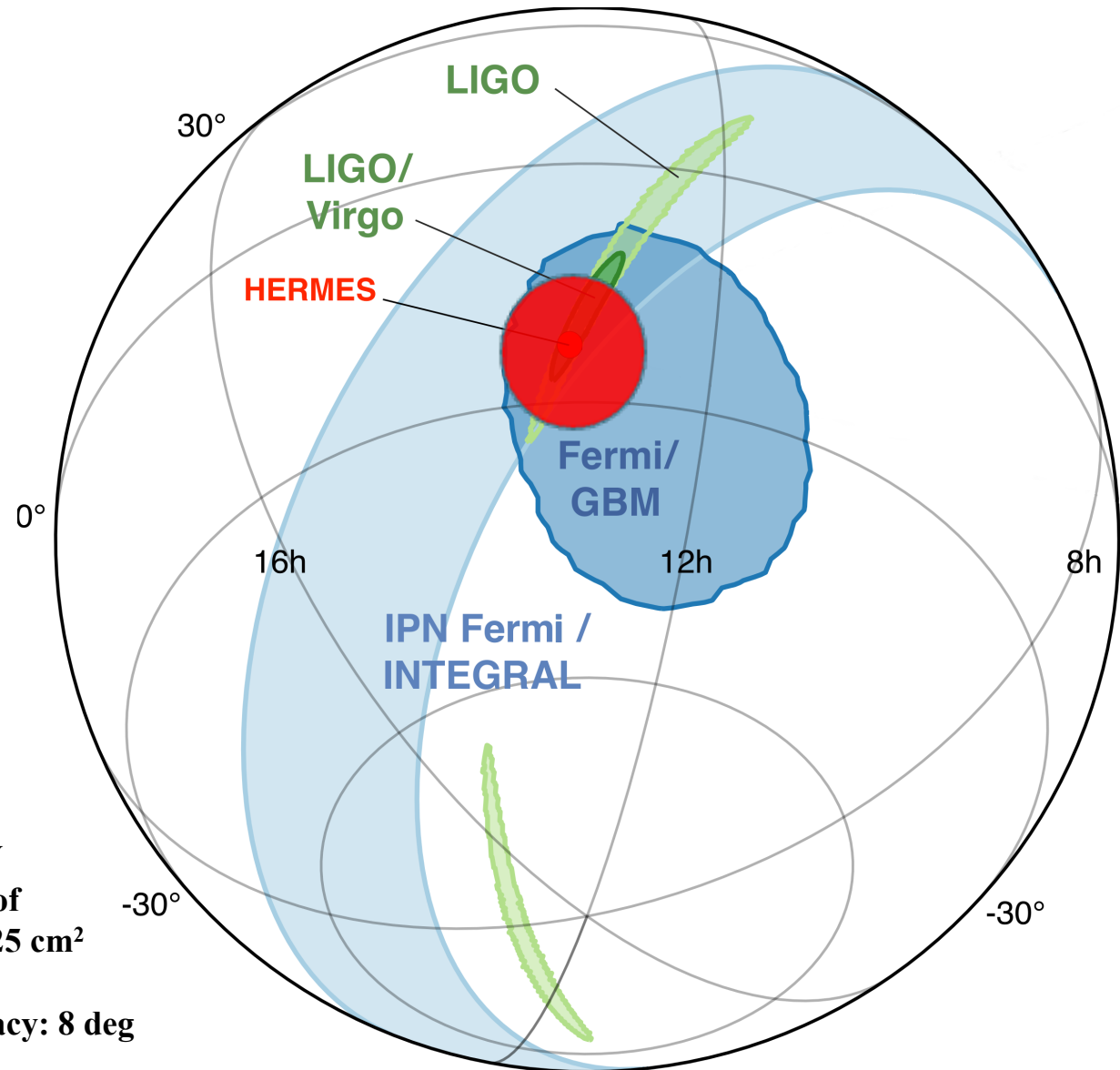
$N_{\text{IND}} = N_{\text{SATELLITES}} - 1$

Accuracy in determining  $\alpha$  and  $\delta$  with  $N_{\text{SATELLITES}}$ :

$\sigma_{\alpha} \approx \sigma_{\delta} = c \sigma_{\text{ToA}} / \langle \text{baseline} \rangle \times (N_{\text{IND}} - N_{\text{PAR}} + 1)^{-1/2}$



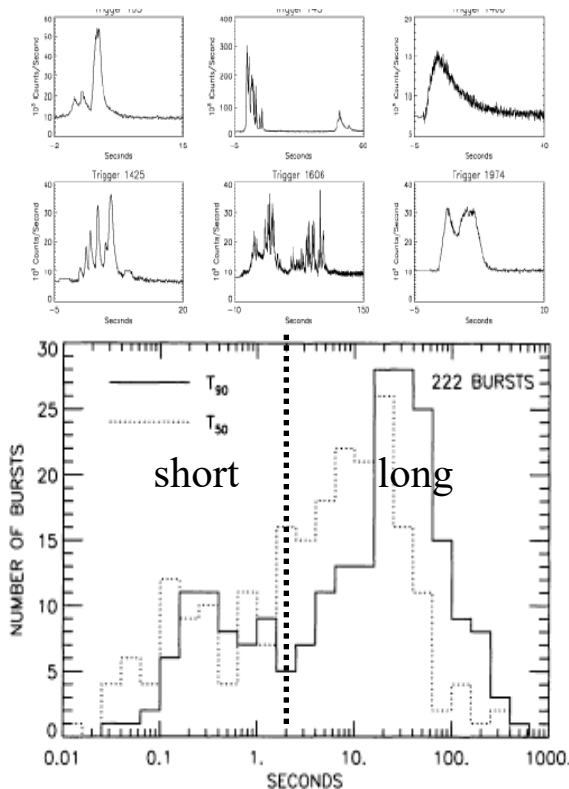
# GW Triangulation & EM counterparts (Fermi GBM, INTEGRAL, HERMES Pathfinder)



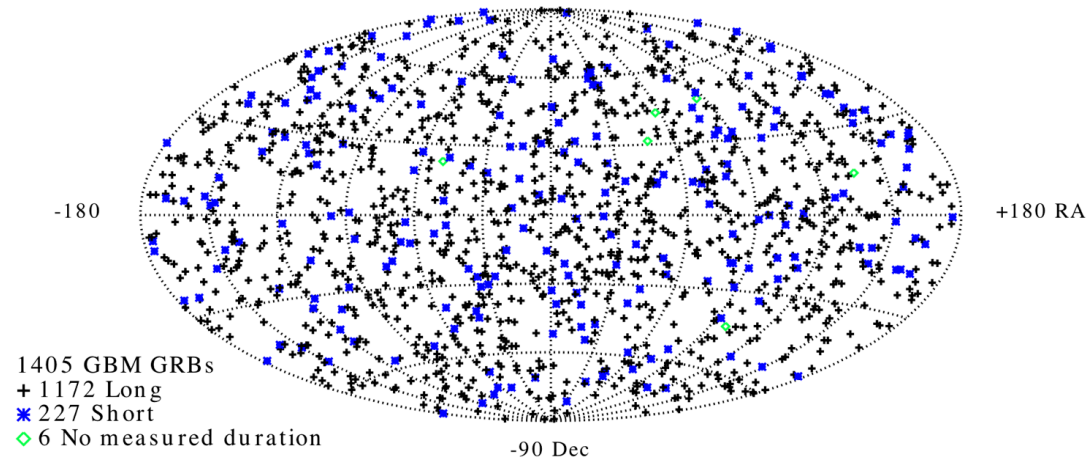
band 50-300 keV  
3 satellites each of  
effective area: 125 cm<sup>2</sup>  
 $\sigma_{\text{ToA}} \approx 1$  ms  
positional accuracy: 8 deg

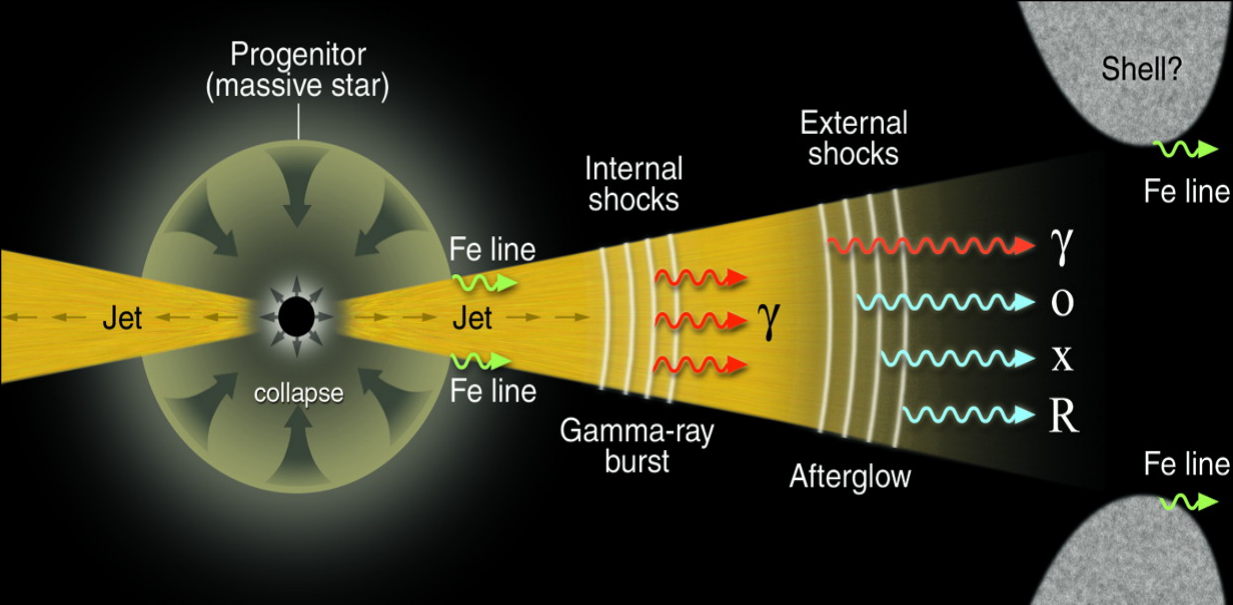
# The Gamma-Ray Burst phenomenon

- sudden and unpredictable bursts of hard-X / soft gamma rays with huge flux
- most of the flux detected from 10–20 keV up to 1–2 MeV,
- fluences for very bright GRB (about 3/yr) 25 counts/cm<sup>2</sup>/s (GRB 130427A 160 counts/cm<sup>2</sup>/s)
- bimodal distribution of duration (0.1–1.0 s & 10.0–100.0 s)
- measured rate (by an all-sky experiment on a LEO satellite): ~0.8/day (estimated true rate ~2/ day)
- evidence of submillisecond structures
- cosmological (spatial isotropy) origin



Fermi GBM GRBs in first six years of operation  
+90

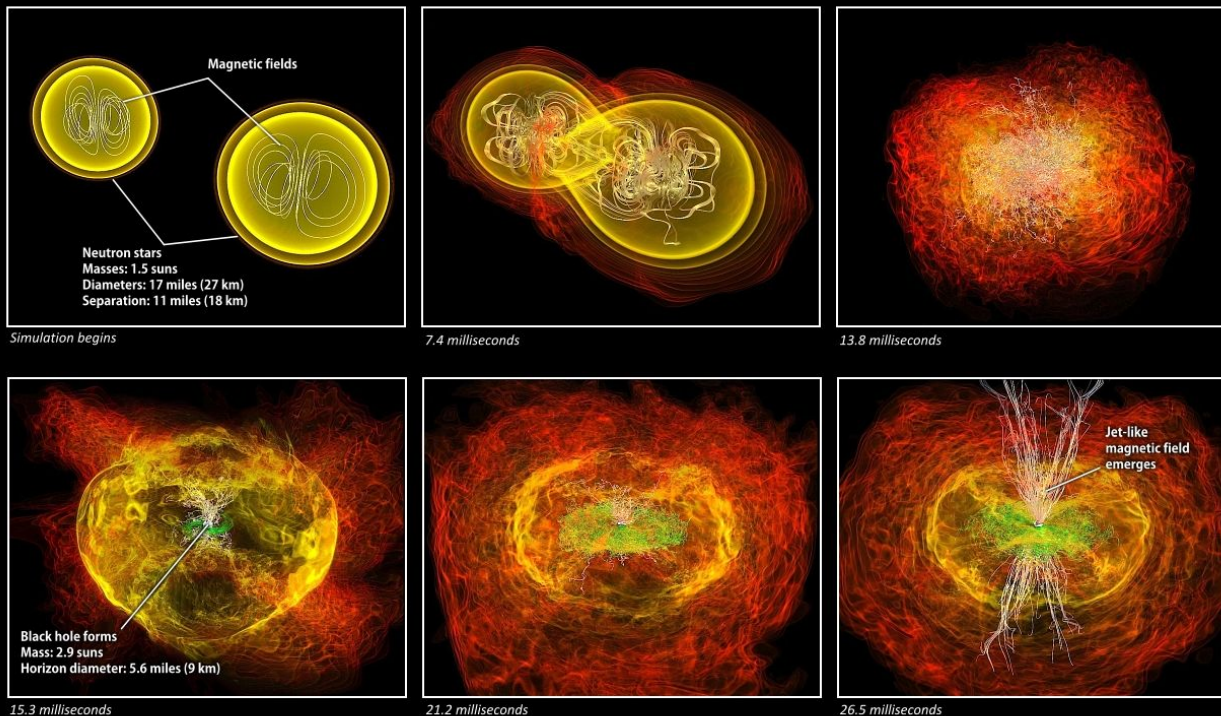




Long GRB:  
BH collapse of a  
massive star

Crashing neutron stars can make gamma-ray burst jets

Short GRB:  
NS–NS binary  
system coalescence  
(emission of GW)

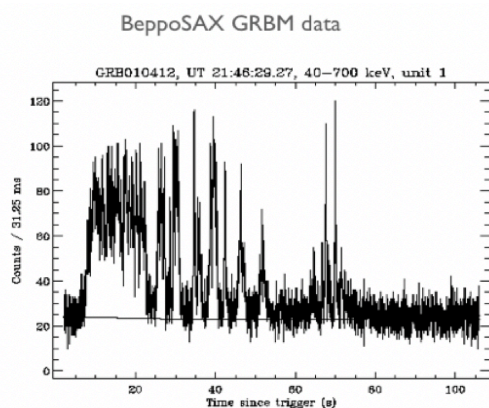


Credit: NASA/AEI/ZIB/M. Koppitz and L. Rezzolla

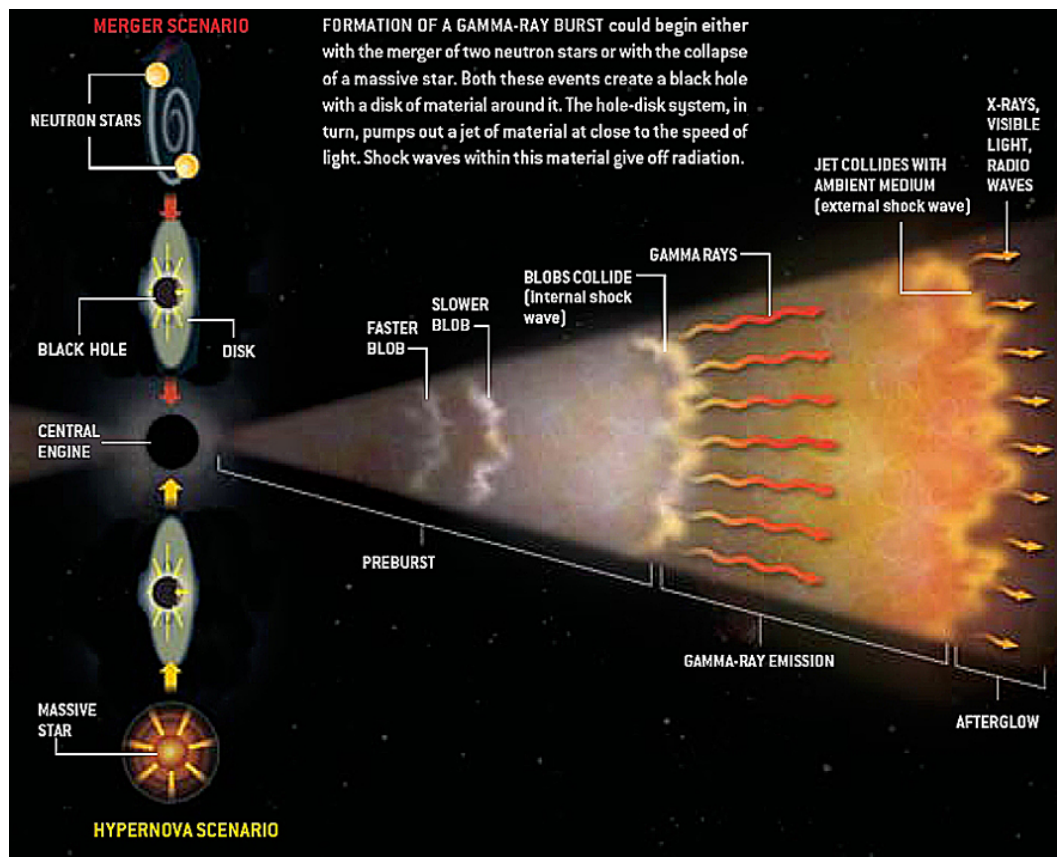
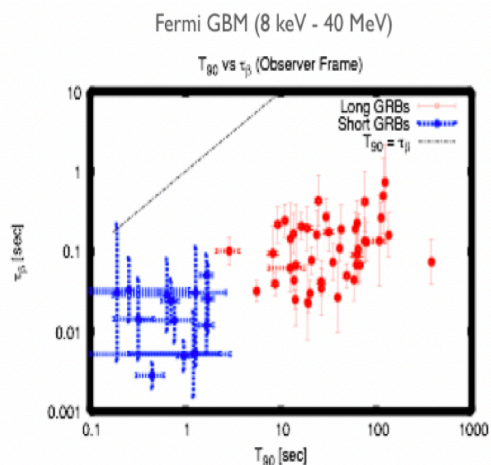


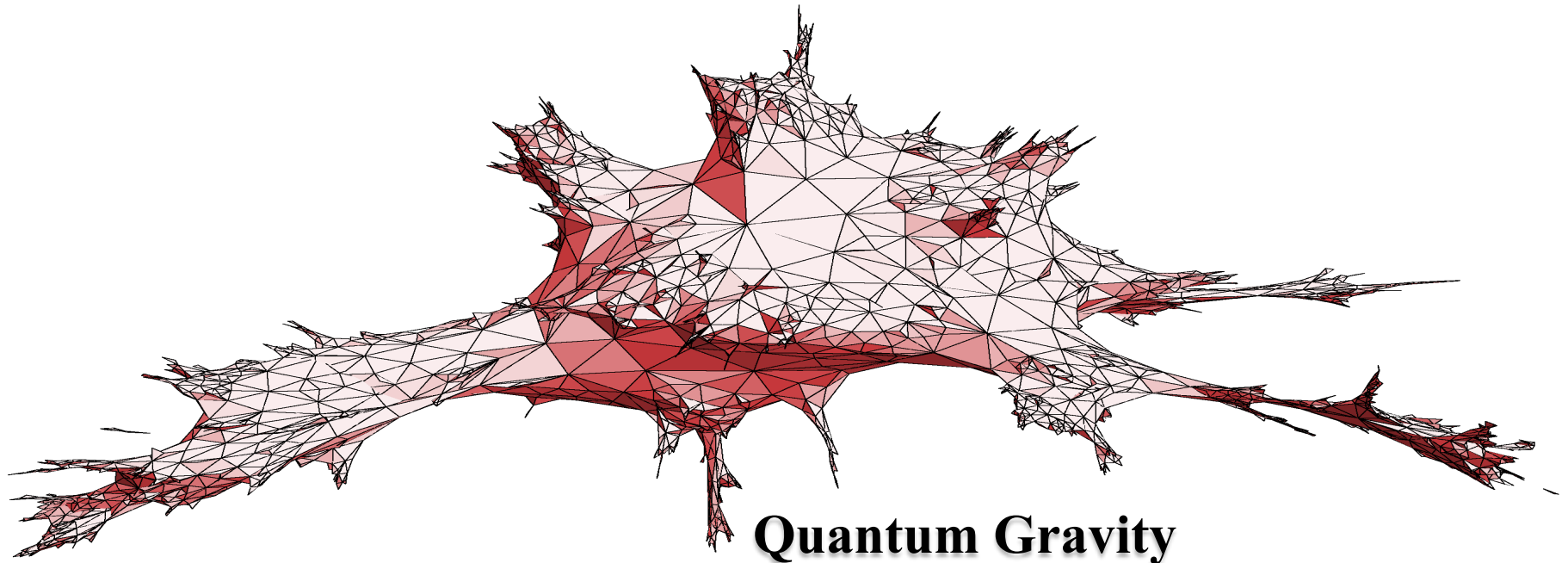
# GRB - Fireball model

- multiple collision of relativistic shells ( $\Gamma = [1 - (v_{\text{jet}}/c)^2]^{-1/2} \geq 100$ )
- explains rapid variability
- synchrotron radiation and inverse Compton scattering



Data 40-700 keV (A=1136 cm<sup>2</sup>, courtesy of F. Frontera)





# Quantum Gravity (Massive Photons or Lorentz Invariance Violation)

MP or LIV predictions:

$$|v_{\text{phot}}/c - 1| \approx \xi E_{\text{phot}}/(M_{\text{QG}} c^2)^n$$

$$\xi \approx 1$$

$n = 1, 2$  (first or second order corrections)

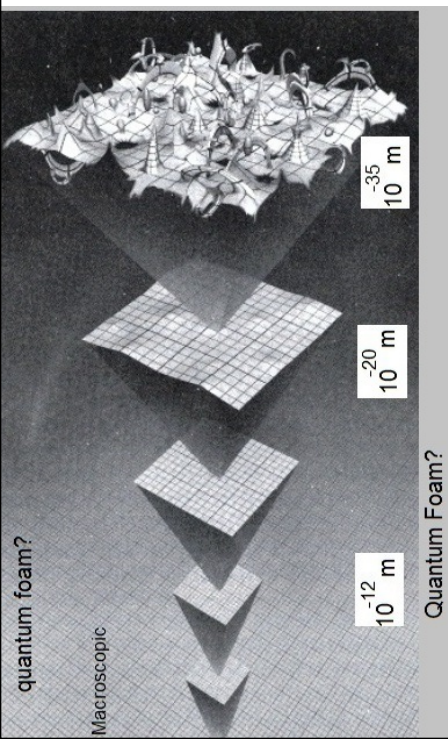
$$M_{\text{QG}} = \zeta m_{\text{PLANCK}} \quad (\zeta \approx 1)$$

$$m_{\text{PLANCK}} = (hc/2\pi G)^{1/2} = 21.8 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ g}$$

Implications for travel time of photons:

$$\Delta t_{\text{MP/LIV}} = \xi (D_{\text{TRAV}}/c) [\Delta E_{\text{phot}}/(M_{\text{QG}} c^2)]^n$$

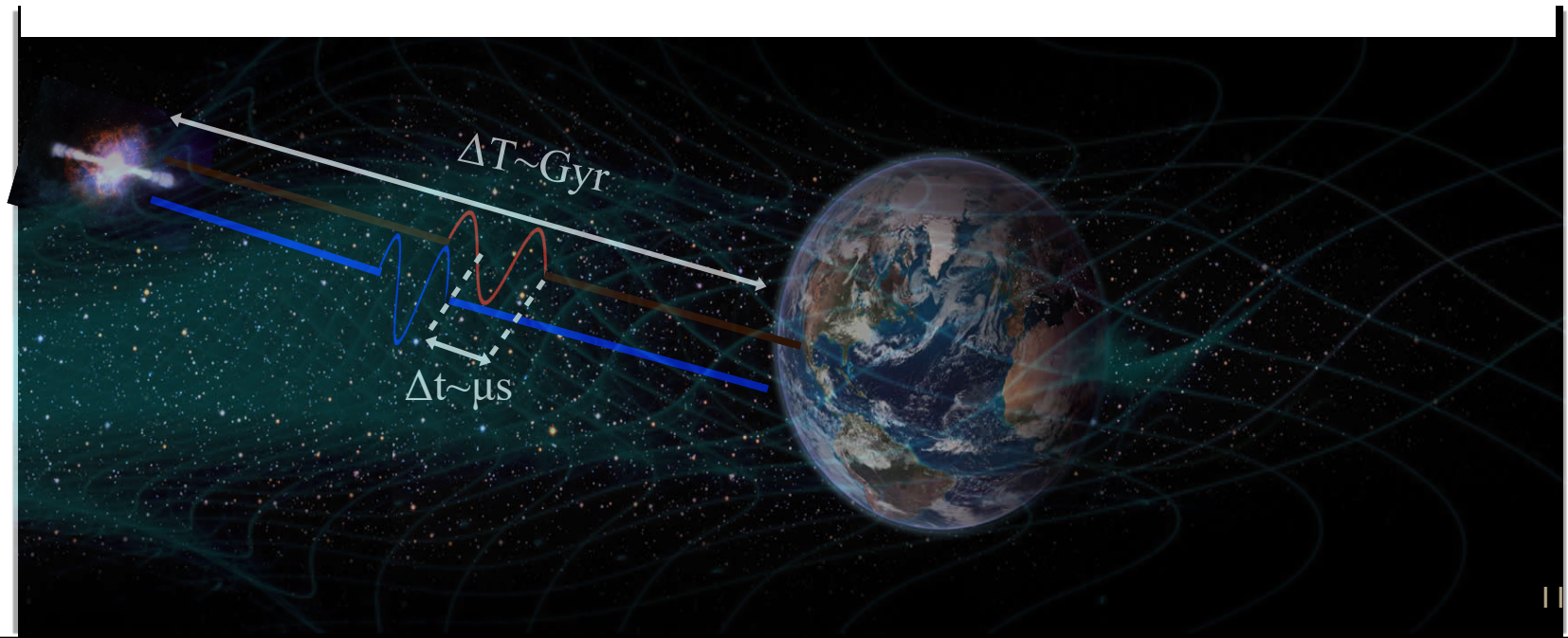
$$D_{\text{TRAV}}(z) = (c/H_0) \int_0^z d\beta (1+\beta) / [\Omega_\Lambda + (1+\beta)^3 \Omega_M]^{1/2}$$



## *GrailQuest*: hunting for Atoms of Space and Time hidden in the wrinkle of Space-Time

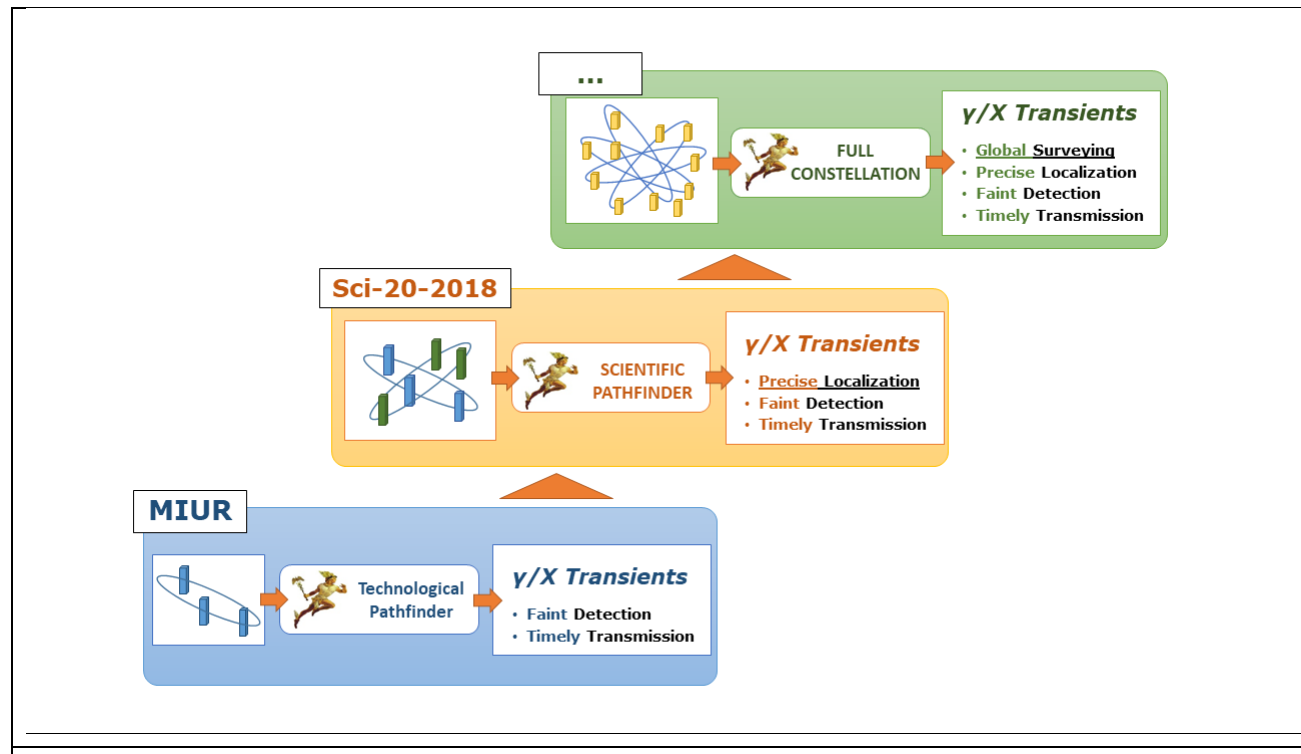
A swarm of nano/micro/small-satellites to probe the ultimate structure of Space-Time and to provide an all-sky monitor to study high-energy astrophysics phenomena

Contact Scientist: Luciano Burderi





# HERMES project development – incremental strategy

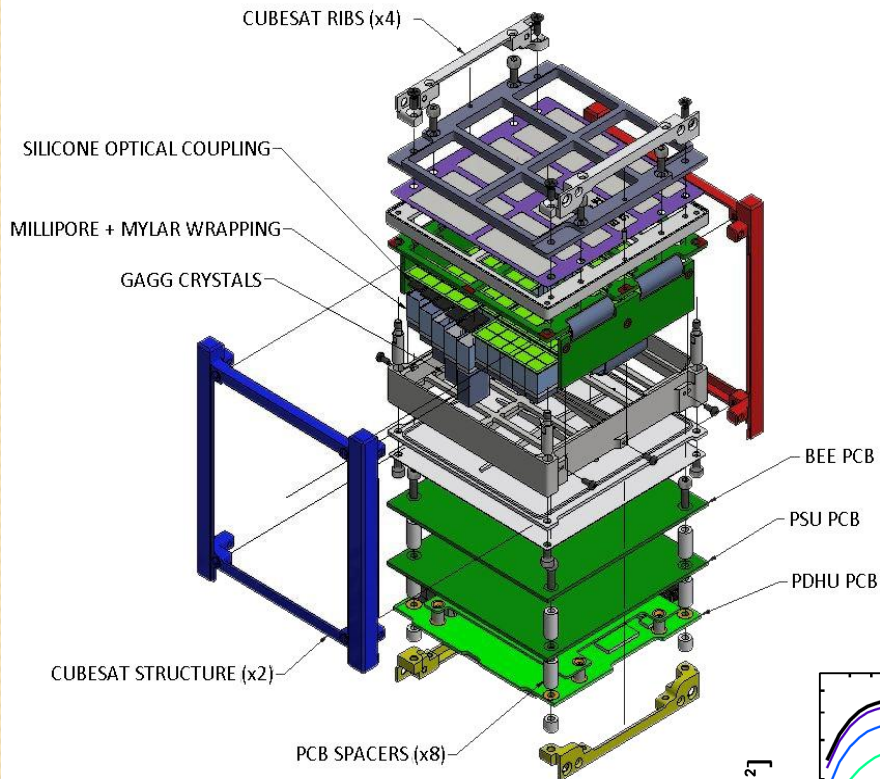


## Funding status at 2019, July

ASI (Italian Space Agency) – 23/12/2016:	€ 500,000
MIUR (Italian Ministry of University and Research) and ASI – 29/11/2017:	€ 1,650,915 (MIUR)
	€ 815,085 (ASI)
EU Horizon 2020 – Call: H2020-SPACE-2018-2020 – 17/07/2018:	€ 3,318,450
ASI (Italian Space Agency) – internal funding 05/02/2019	€ 1,900,000
<b>Total Funding (at 06/2019):</b>	<b>€ 8,184,450</b>

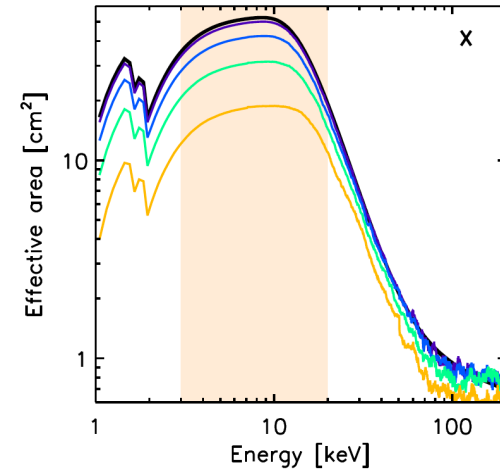
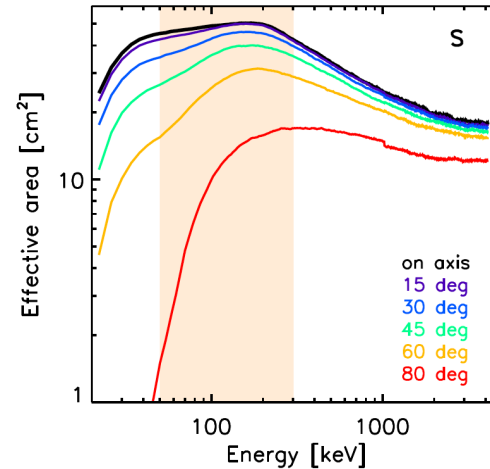


# HERMES Pathfinder Payload



## Silicon Drift Devices + Scintillator Crystals (GAGG)

- Broad energy band (3-1000 keV)
- High time resolution (0.2  $\mu$ s)
- Effective area  $\sim 50$  cm<sup>2</sup>
- Energy resolution: 15% at 30 keV
- Reduced X-ray background



# HERMES Next Generation – OneWeb



Future of astronomy ..  
Mon, 11 November 201..

Sales Ended

Details

## Description

IMPORTANT: Due to space limitations, to register your interest in attending this event and submit an abstract, please get a ticket and also send an email to [NatureAstronomy@nature.com](mailto:NatureAstronomy@nature.com).

The goal of the event is to investigate astronomical research ideas that could be addressed by small satellites or cubesat missions.

The event will be split into two parts. The morning part will be 6 invited presenters, 3 from academia, 2 from the industry and one from the government. These are:

Prof Giovanna Tinetti, UCL – Blue Skies Limited

Prof Stephen Serjeant, Open University

Dr Martin Elvis, Harvard-Smithsonian

Dr Markos Trichas, Airbus (smallsat platforms)

Mr Doug Liddle, InSpace (cubesat platforms)

Mr Andrew Ratcliffe, UKSA (space policy)

We also invite contributed presentations (10 mins + 5 mins for Q&A) from interested participants. We will look for ideas that can address the following question:

*“The launch of the first 6 out of 900 OneWeb satellites earlier this year and the establishment by Airbus-OneWeb Satellites of the first-ever assembly line capable of producing 2 small satellites per day marks the beginning of a new era for space. An era which allows the rapid production and deployment of highly capable small satellites at a cost comparable to that of Cubesats yet able to comprehensively address commercial and operational security needs. New Space could offer significant benefits to the scientific community which has until now relied almost exclusively on space agency developments, namely large monolithic systems that offer world-class capabilities for new scientific discoveries but which require*

## Date And Time

Mon, 11 November 2019

09:00 – 18:00 GMT

[Add to Calendar](#)

## Location

Springer Nature Campus

2 Crinan Street

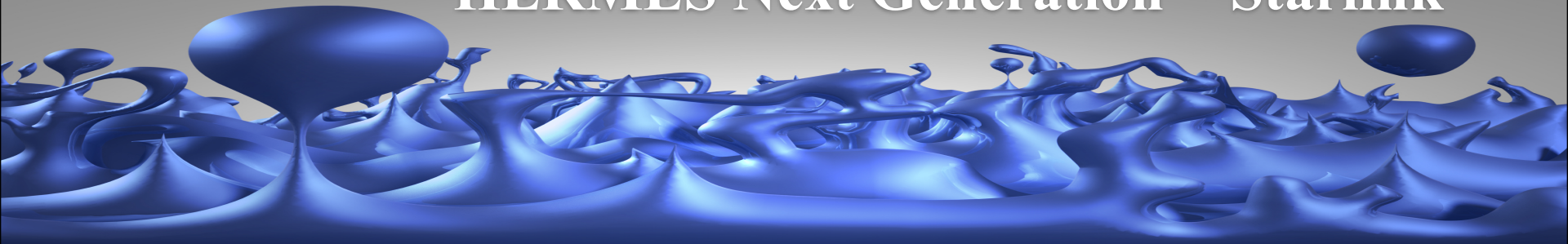
London

N1 9SQ

United Kingdom

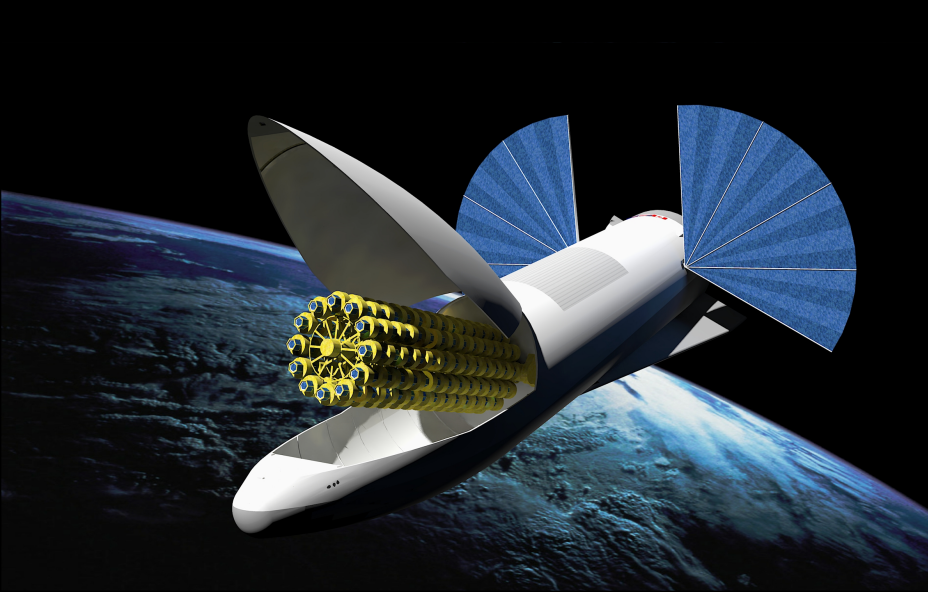
[View Map](#)

# HERMES Next Generation – Starlink



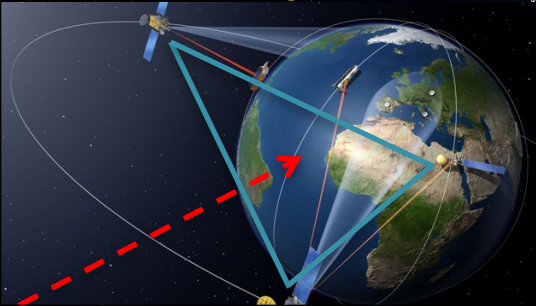
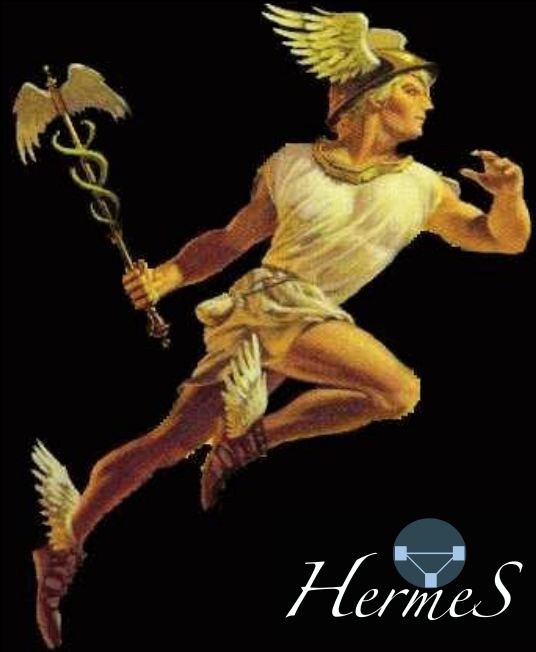
## Starlink Constellation 12,000 sats SpaceX (Elon Musk)

- 4425 @ 1200 km (completed by 2024)
- 60 satellites launched on 16/05/2019
- 7518 @ 340 km
- up to 1,000,000 fixed satellite earth stations (February 2019)
- optical inter-satellite links
- 100 ÷ 500 kg satellites (mass production)
- **board a 100 cm<sup>2</sup> effective area GAGG crystal – SDD photodetector (position sensitive + coded mask?) module on each satellite**
- **120 m<sup>2</sup> effective area All Sky Monitor!**





# The HERMES project: the movie



Please, visit our websites:

<http://hermes.dsf.unica.it>

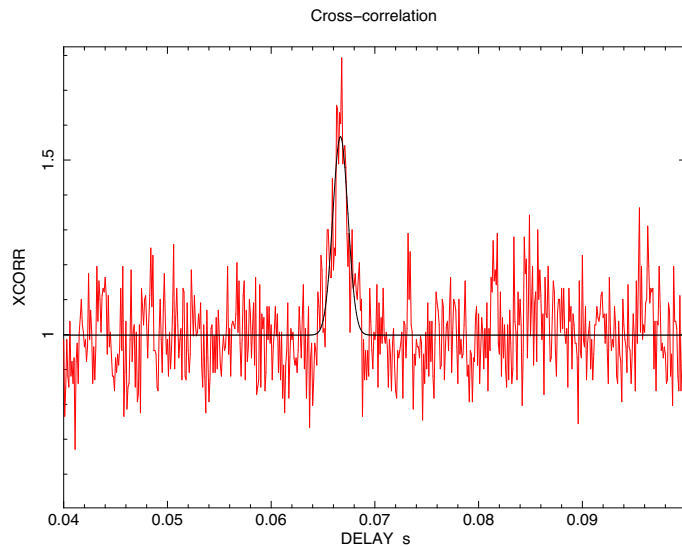
<http://hermes-sp.eu>





**Thank you**

# Delays from cross-correlation analysis



**Temporal resolution: 200  $\mu$ s**  
**Standard CCF (red)**

**2 Lightcurves of a short GRB**

$\Delta t = 0.25$  s

$A = 100$  cm<sup>2</sup>

$\phi_{\text{GRB}} = 8$  phot/s/cm<sup>2</sup>

$\phi_{\text{BCK}} = 0.8$  phot/s/cm<sup>2</sup>

$N_{\text{PHOT}} = 220$

$\lambda_{\text{SHOT}} = 100$  shot/s

$\tau_{\text{SHOT}} = 1$  ms

$\tau_{\text{KERN}} = 0.1$  ms

**Temporal resolution: 1  $\mu$ s**  
**Standard CCF (black)**  
**Kernel-modified CCF (red)**

**2 Lightcurves of a short GRB**

$\Delta t = 0.25$  s

$A = 100$  cm<sup>2</sup>

$\phi_{\text{GRB}} = 8$  phot/s/cm<sup>2</sup>

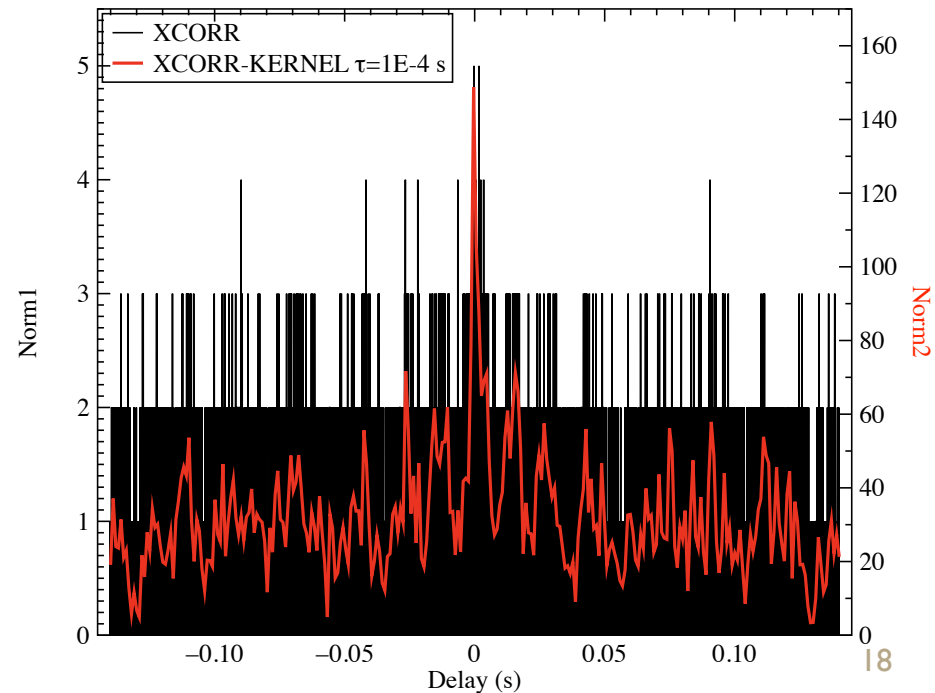
$\phi_{\text{BCK}} = 0.8$  phot/s/cm<sup>2</sup>

$N_{\text{PHOT}} = 220$

$\lambda_{\text{SHOT}} = 100$  shot/s

$\tau_{\text{SHOT}} = 1$  ms

$\tau_{\text{KERN}} = 0.1$  ms

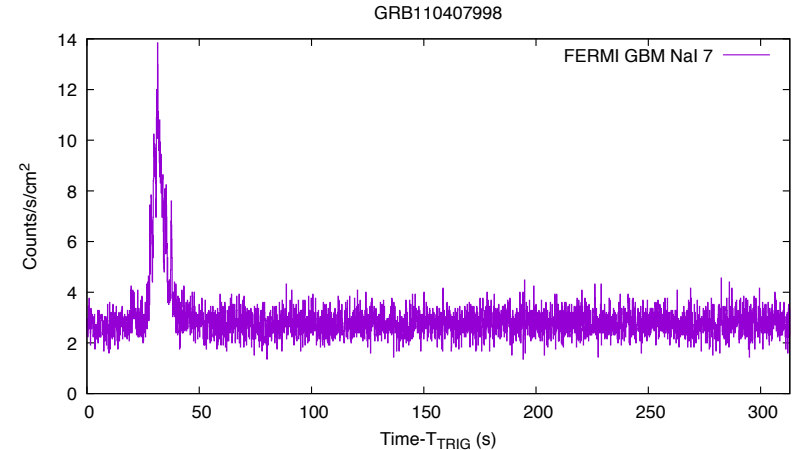
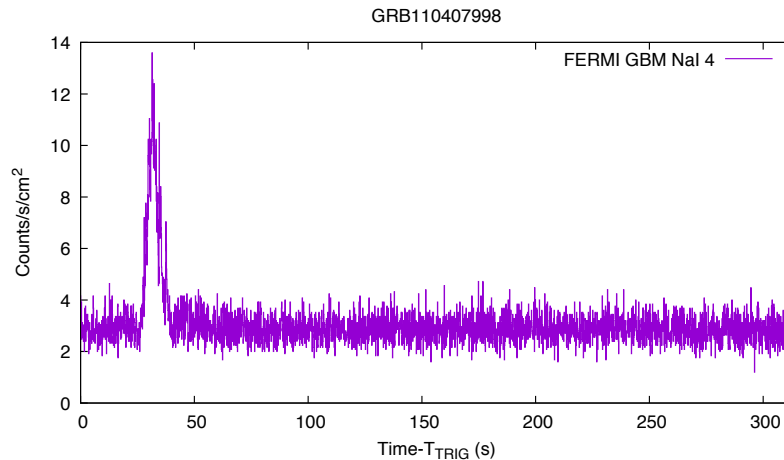


# Delays from cross-correlation analysis (GBM data)

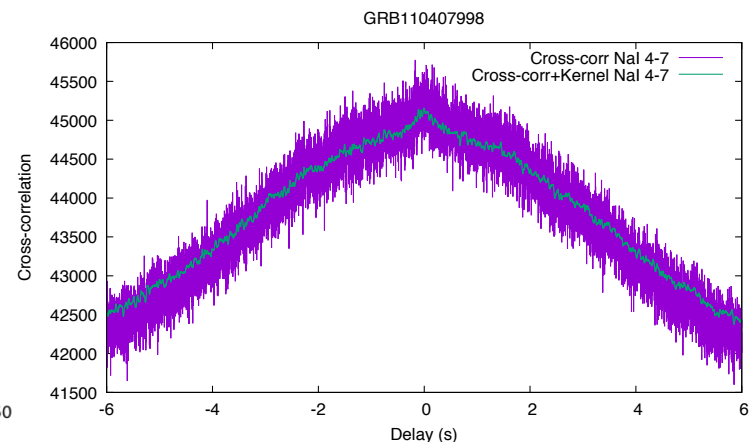
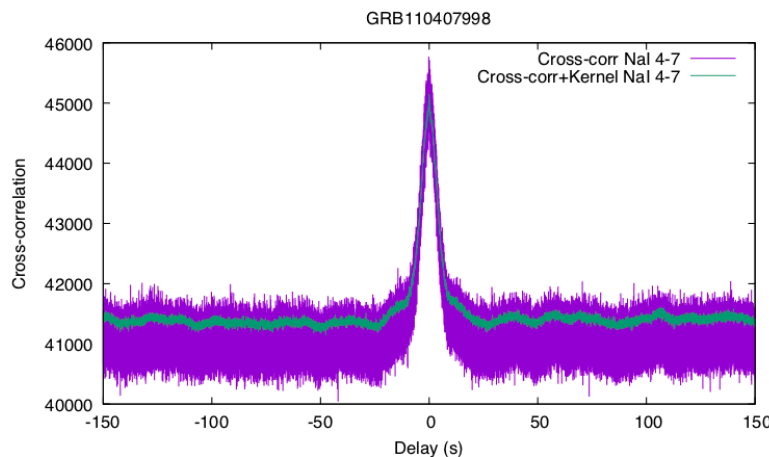
GRB data (absence of millisecond variability):

$\Delta t = 10$  s;  $\phi_{\text{GRB}} = 7$  phot/s/cm<sup>2</sup>;  $\phi_{\text{BCK}} = 3$  phot/s/cm<sup>2</sup>;

$A = 125$  cm<sup>2</sup>;  $N_{\text{PHOT}} = 8750$  (source) + 3750 (bkg) = 12500



Kernel-modified CCF: bin = 1 ms; kernel = 7 ms  $\sigma_{\text{CCF}} \approx 3$  ms  $\sigma_{\alpha} \approx \sigma_{\delta} \approx 15$  deg



# GRB & Quantum Gravity

$$\Delta t_{\text{MP/LIV}} = \xi (D_{\text{TRAV}}/c) [\Delta E_{\text{phot}}/(M_{\text{QG}} c^2)]^n$$

$$D_{\text{TRAV}}(z) = (c/H_0) \int_0^z d\beta (1+\beta) / [\Omega_\Lambda + (1+\beta)^3 \Omega_M]^{1/2}$$

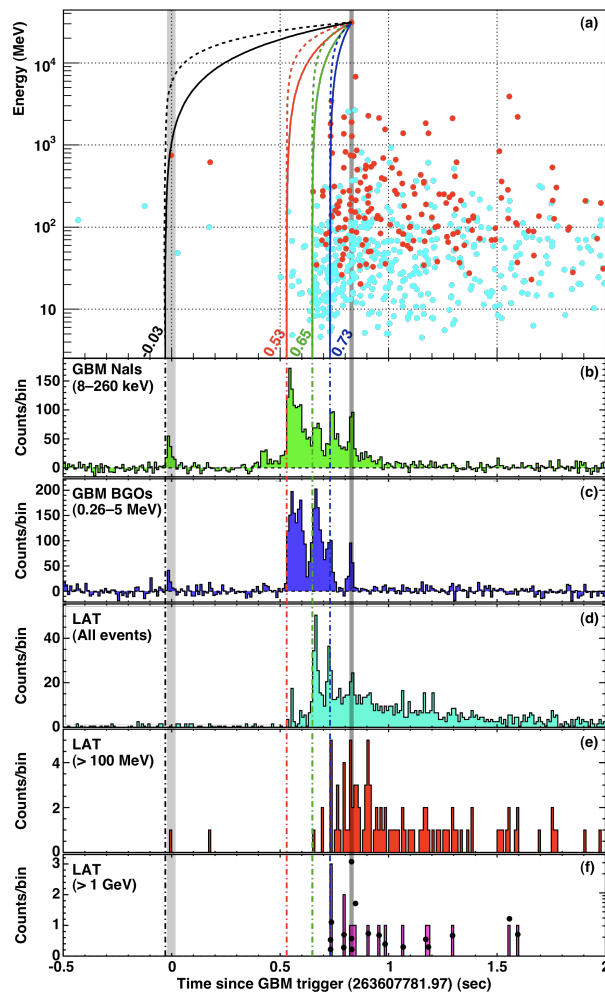
$$\frac{dN_{\mathbf{E}}(\mathbf{E})}{dA dt} = \mathbf{F} \times \begin{cases} \left(\frac{\mathbf{E}}{\mathbf{E}_B}\right)^\alpha \exp\{-(\alpha - \beta)\mathbf{E}/\mathbf{E}_B\}, & \mathbf{E} \leq \mathbf{E}_B, \\ \left(\frac{\mathbf{E}}{\mathbf{E}_B}\right)^\beta \exp\{-(\alpha - \beta)\}, & \mathbf{E} \geq \mathbf{E}_B. \end{cases}$$

$\sigma_{\text{CCF}} \approx \mathbf{100} \mu\text{s} / (N_{\text{PHOT}}/12000)^{-1/2}$  (GRB with ms variability )  
 100 nano-satellites of  $A = 100 \text{ cm}^2$

Energy band MeV	$E_{\text{AVE}}$ MeV	N ( $\beta = -2.5$ ) photons	$E_{\text{CC}}(\text{N})$ $\mu\text{s}$	N ( $\beta = -2.0$ ) photons	$E_{\text{CC}}(\text{N})$ $\mu\text{s}$	$\Delta T_{\text{LIV}} (\xi = 1.0, \zeta = 1.0)$			
						$\mu\text{s}$ z = 0.1	$\mu\text{s}$ z = 0.5	$\mu\text{s}$ z = 1.0	$\mu\text{s}$ z = 3.0
0.005 – 0.025	0.0112	$3.80 \times 10^6$	0.38	$3.02 \times 10^6$	0.43	0.04	0.25	0.51	1.42
0.025 – 0.050	0.0353	$1.40 \times 10^6$	0.62	$1.17 \times 10^6$	0.69	0.13	0.72	1.46	4.10
0.050 – 0.100	0.0707	$1.10 \times 10^6$	0.71	$9.98 \times 10^5$	0.74	0.27	1.43	2.93	8.21
0.100 – 0.300	0.1732	$8.98 \times 10^5$	0.79	$1.00 \times 10^6$	0.74	0.66	3.51	7.19	20.10
0.300 – 1.000	0.5477	$2.07 \times 10^5$	1.64	$3.82 \times 10^5$	1.20	2.09	11.11	22.72	63.56
1.000 – 2.000	1.4142	$2.63 \times 10^4$	4.56	$8.20 \times 10^4$	2.60	5.40	28.68	58.67	164.12
2.000 – 5.000	3.1623	$1.07 \times 10^4$	7.19	$4.92 \times 10^4$	3.35	12.07	64.12	131.19	367.00
5.000 – 50.00	15.8114	$3.52 \times 10^3$	12.54	$2.95 \times 10^4$	4.33	60.35	320.62	656.00	1834.98



# GRB & Lorentz Invariance Violation (LIV) with Fermi



Fermi GBM & LAT detection of  
short ( $\Delta T < 1$  s) GRB 090510  
 $z = 0.903(3)$ ,  $d = 1.8 \times 10^{28}$  cm  
( $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.73$ ,  $\Omega_M = 0.27$ ,  $h = 0.71$ )  
(Abdo et al. 2009)

“Cleanest” constraints based on one photon detected at 31 GeV  
 $\Delta t_{31\text{GeV}} \leq 859$  ms (+30 ms because GRB started 30 ms before 0)  
 $\delta t / \delta E \leq 30$  ms/GeV (35 MeV – 31 GeV)

LIV predictions:

Relative Locality Models (Freidel, Smolin 2011):  $\xi = \frac{1}{2}$  ;  $n=1$

Data of GRB 090510 imply:

$$M_{\text{QG}} \geq 0.595 m_{\text{PLANCK}} \quad (\Delta t_{31\text{GeV}} \leq 859 + 30 \text{ ms}; E_{\text{ph}} \geq 28 \text{ GeV})$$

$$M_{\text{QG}} \geq 0.610 m_{\text{PLANCK}} \quad (\delta t / \delta E \leq 30 \text{ ms/GeV})$$

**Caveats, assumptions:**

- i) photon at 31 GeV emitted after  $t_{\text{START GRB}} = -30$  ms (not before)
- ii) physical delays in emission process (e.g. comptonization) not considered

**Solution to effectively probe SpaceTime structure:**

cross-correlation of GRB lightcurves at different (close) energies

# HERMES 3U CubeSat

- 10×10×30 cm
- Gyroscope Stability on 3 axes

On board Systems:

Data recording:

- continuous on temporary buffer
- trigger capability for data recording
- continuous download of data (VHF) for monitoring of known bright sources

Data download:

- S-band download on ground stations (equatorial orbit)
- VHF data transmission
- IRIDIUM constellation for data transmission

