

# GAIA SCIENCE ALERTS

## Follow-up server manual



**gaia**

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last update: 9 December 2011



# INTRODUCTION

Gaia Science Alerts Follow-up Server relies on alerts released via VOEvent at Skyalert.org webpage. For details on Skyalert please refer to Williams et al. 2009, ASPC, 411, 115 and presentations of Ashish Mahabal and Roy Williams available here:

<http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/ioa/research/gsawg/index.php/Workshop2011:agenda>

## DISCLAIMER

The calibration server is part of the Gaia Science Alerts WG follow-up pipeline and thus should be used only for activities related to the Gaia alerts verification and follow-up. For details please go to:

<http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/ioa/research/gsawg>



# HOW TO SET-UP CUSTOM ALERT FEED

go to page 12 if you want to skip this step



## Skyalert.org

Sponsored by the National Science Foundation  
[Browse Event Streams](#) | [Browse Skyalert Feeds](#) | [my Feeds and Alerts](#)

Log in [here](#), or register [here](#).

### Recent Events

In the picture below, time is measured with "right now" at the right. Ages of recent events -- the last 200 received -- are shown by stream. Click on an event to bring up a new window with detailed portfolio.



month 2w week 4d 3d 2d day 12h 4h 2h hour 0.0  
<-- Time since now (2011/11/18 8:09 PST)

Legend: CRTS (yellow), CRTS2 (light blue), Fermi (red), SWIFT (green)

The chart shows a timeline of astronomical events from month to 0.0 hours. CRTS events are represented by yellow dots, CRTS2 by light blue dots, Fermi by red dots, and SWIFT by green dots. The timeline is divided into segments: month, 2w, week, 4d, 3d, 2d, day, 12h, 4h, 2h, hour, and 0.0. A yellow arrow points to the 'Log in here, or register here.' link in the top right corner.

### About Skyalert

SkyAlert collects and distributes astronomical **events** in near-real time. Each event belongs to a **stream** of events that come from a common source, with a common vocabulary of parameters for each event. You can browse event streams and the events themselves, at the links below. You can set up "alerts" which decide which events you find interesting, that comes with an [Atom feed](#) of those that pass the selection. You get only the events you want -- no more, no less.

- [Skyalert News](#)
- [Feeds of interesting astronomical events](#)
- [Browse event streams](#) that skyalert is monitoring
- [Recent events](#) as a table
- [Build a custom feed](#)
- [Get email when an interesting event occurs](#)
- [Authoring your own event stream](#)
- [Validate a VOEvent or author an event](#)
- [Resolve an event identifier \(IVORN\)](#)
- [Guide to Running Skyalert \(pdf\)](#)
- [Install your own Skyalert](#)
- Contact us at [help@skyalert.org](mailto:help@skyalert.org)

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# HOW TO SET-UP CUSTOM ALERT FEED



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[Browse Event Streams](#) | [Browse Skyalert Feeds](#) | [my Feeds and Alerts](#)

Sign up

## Create an account

First name:	<input type="text"/>
Last name:	<input type="text"/>
Username:	<input type="text"/>
Email address:	<input type="text" value="wyrzykow"/>
Password:	<input type="password" value="....."/>
Password again	<input type="password"/>
Click when finished:	<input type="button" value="Register →"/>


Fill out the form to the left (all fields are required), and your account will be created; you'll be sent an email with instructions on how to finish your registration.

We'll only use your email to send you signup instructions. We hate spam as much as you do.

This account will let you subscribe to event streams for future notifications.



# HOW TO SET-UP CUSTOM ALERT FEED



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Log in

## Log in

Username:

Password:

If you don't have an account, you can [sign up](#) for one.



# HOW TO SET-UP CUSTOM ALERT FEED



## Skyalert.org

Sponsored by the National Science Foundation  
[Browse Event Streams](#) | [Browse Skyalert Feeds](#) | [my Feeds and Alerts](#)

Logged in as: wyrzykow  
(Lukasz Wyrzykowski)  
([logout](#))

### Recent Events

In the picture below, time is measured with "right now" at the right. Ages of recent events -- the last 200 received -- are shown by stream. Click on an event to bring up a new window with detailed portfolio.



month 2w week 4d 3d 2d day 12h 4h 2h hour 0.0  
<-- Time since now (2011/11/18 8:06 PST)

Legend:  
CRTS (yellow)  
CRTS2 (light blue)  
Fermi (red)  
SWIFT (green)

The chart shows a timeline of astronomical events from month to 0.0 hours ago. CRTS events (yellow) are the most frequent, appearing as a dense horizontal line. CRTS2 events (light blue) are also frequent, appearing as a horizontal line. Fermi events (red) are less frequent, appearing as a few dots. SWIFT events (green) are the least frequent, appearing as a single dot.

### About Skyalert

SkyAlert collects and distributes astronomical **events** in near-real time. Each event belongs to a **stream** of events that come from a common source, with a common vocabulary of parameters for each event. You can browse event streams and the events themselves, at the links below. You can set up "alerts" which decide which events you find interesting, that comes with an [Atom feed](#) of those that pass the selection. You get only the events you want -- no more, no less.

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- [Feeds of interesting astronomical events](#)
- [Browse event streams](#) that skyalert is monitoring
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- [Authoring your own event stream](#)
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- [Resolve an event identifier \(IVORN\)](#)
- [Guide to Running Skyalert \(pdf\)](#)
- [Install your own Skyalert](#)
- Contact us at [help@skyalert.org](mailto:help@skyalert.org)

[Browse Event Streams](#) [Browse Skyalert Feeds](#) [my Feeds and Alerts](#)



# HOW TO SET-UP CUSTOM ALERT FEED

## For a New Alert

[Click Here](#)

## Existing Alerts

Here are your existing alerts:  
Click the "detail" to view and edit.

Bright CBAT	<a href="#">(detail)</a>	<a href="#">(feed)</a>	<a href="#">(json)</a>	<a href="#">(delete)</a>	CBAT["mag"]<17
Catalina SNe	<a href="#">(detail)</a>	<a href="#">(feed)</a>	<a href="#">(json)</a>	<a href="#">(delete)</a>	(CRTSCircular["First"]["eventClass"]=="Supernova") and (CRTS["First Detection params"]["magnitude"]<17)

[Back to main page](#)

Select the main stream of alerts:

### Choose the primary stream

This is the event stream that is the basis of your alert. You can build a trigger (i.e. [click](#))  
Choose the primary stream -->

You can also have extra conditions for your alert, based on the presence of additional streams. This is an advanced option. [click](#)

[Continue to next step -->](#)

- ✓ select stream...
- AAVSO
- CBAT
- CRTS
- CRTS2
- CRTS3
- CSS\_NEO
- Fermi
- Gaia
- GALEX
- HST\_MCT
- MOA
- OGLE
- PI\_OF\_SKY
- POSS
- SWIFT
- Test

CRTS: Northern Hemisphere  
CRTS2: Asteroids  
CRTS3: Southern Hemisphere

Gaia: in future...

Select the secondary stream of alerts:

### Choose the primary stream

This is the event stream that is the basis of your alert. You can build a trigger (i.e. [click](#))  
Choose the primary stream --> CRTS

You can also have extra conditions for your alert, based on the presence of additional streams. This is an advanced option. [click](#)

Choose secondary streams --> select stream...  
CatalogArchives  
constellation  
CRTSCircular

[Continue to next step -->](#)

CRTSCircular contains classification results



# HOW TO SET-UP CUSTOM ALERT FEED

## Alert Detail

for the alert named **CRTS SNe North**

Primary Stream: [CRTS \(ivo://nvo.caltech/voeventnet/catot\)](#)

Secondary Stream: [CRTSCircular \(ivo://nvo.caltech/voeventnet/CRTSCircular\)](#)

Name of Alert:

Active alert?:

Action type:

Action detail:

Private alert?:

### What can I do here?

You can create a decision trigger in the box below, which is an expression that evaluates to true or false, for example `SWIFT["Dec"] > 70`, which is true only for events from the SWIFT stream whose declination is greater than 70. When an event comes in, it is run immediately against your trigger, and if it passes, then the action is executed. Currently the only action available is sending email ("alert\_email"). Another decision formula might be `CATOT["First Detection params"]["magnitude"] < 18` to select by magnitude.

### How to make an alert:

- **Step 1:** Give your alert a name, and make sure the email address is correct. Click the **Save** button.
- **Step 2:** Change the default trigger ("True") to the criterion you want. Clicking on the **red dots** by names of parameters will insert the correct code. Make sure your expression is a boolean expression.
- **Step 3:** Click "Save"
- **Step 4:** Click on "See Events" to see which historical events satisfy your trigger.

### Trigger Expression

`(CRTSCircular["First"]["eventClass"]=="Supernova") and (CRTS["First Detection params"]["magnitude"]<18) and (CRTS["First Detection params"]["Dec"]>0)`

Your filter here

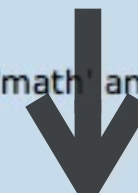
the list of possible parameters for both streams is available at the bottom of the page

This button first checks the syntax of the expression above, then saves the whole alert.

The form of the trigger is python syntax. Each event type (stream) is given a dictionary of its parameters. The 'math' and 'string' libraries are also available in trigger construction.

**Step 3: Click to save -->**

Click once, if no error, then proceed





Action:  Private alert?:

## What can I do here?

You can create a decision trigger in the box below, which is an expression that evaluates to true or false, for example `SWIFT["Dec"] > 70`, which is true only for events from the SWIFT stream whose declination is greater than 70. When an event comes in, it is run immediately against your trigger, and if it passes, then the action is executed. Currently the only action available is sending email ("alert\_email"). Another decision formula might be `CATOT["First Detection params"]["magnitude"] < 18` to select by magnitude.

### How to make an alert:

- **Step 1:** Give your alert a name, and make sure the email address is correct. Click the **Save** button.
- **Step 2:** Change the default trigger ("True") to the criterion you want. Clicking on the **red dots** by names of parameters will insert the correct code. Make sure your expression is a boolean expression.
- **Step 3:** Click "Save"
- **Step 4:** Click on "See Events" to see which historical events satisfy your trigger.

### Trigger Expression

```
(CRTSCircular["First"]["eventClass"]=="Supernova") and (CRTS["First Detection params"]["magnitude"]<18) and (CRTS["First Detection params"]["Dec"]>0)
```

This button first checks the syntax of the expression above, then saves the whole alert.

The form of the trigger is python syntax. Each event type (stream) is given a dictionary of its parameters. The 'math' and 'string' libraries are also available in trigger construction.

**Step 3: Click to save -->**

This button lets you see past events that would satisfy your trigger, if executed now.

*Note: you must "Save" the alert with the button above before using this function!.*

**Step 4: Click to see past events that satisfy this alert -->**

## Primary Stream: CRTS

Click on a **red dot** to insert that parameter into your Decision Formula above. When you are happy with the formula, click Save.

group	Name	UCD	dataType	Description
<b>Skyalert Standard Parameters</b>				
	RA <sup>.</sup>	pos.eq.ra	float	Right Ascension of event
	Dec <sup>.</sup>	pos.eq.dec	float	Declination of event
	positionalError <sup>.</sup>	stat.error;pos.eq	float	Positional error of event
	ISOtime <sup>.</sup>	time.epoch		Time (UTC) of event
	MJDtime <sup>.</sup>	time.epoch	float	Time (MJD) of event



# HOW TO SET-UP CUSTOM ALERT FEED

Filter is ready.

## Portfolios

This page lists event portfolios whose first event is from this stream.

those allowed by the trigger rule 'CRTS SNe North' from *wyrzykow* ((CRTSCircular["First"]["eventClass"]=="Supernova") and (CRTS["First Detection params"]["magnitude"]<18) and (CRTS["First Detection params"]["Dec"]>0))



Click on the column header to sort. Table rows with gray background represent "test" events that do not represent anything in the sky.

detail meta.link	IVORN meta.id	RA pos.eq.ra deg	Dec pos.eq.dec deg	ISOtime time.epoch	Magnitude phot.mag;em.opt.R
<a href="#">detail</a>	1110061400064119848	21.09311	40.39894	2011-10-06T08:41:34	17.266001
<a href="#">detail</a>	1110061400024114478	7.32271	40.21338	2011-10-06T07:55:51	16.399099
<a href="#">detail</a>	1110061320094139400	27.71469	33.43934	2011-10-06T07:17:51	15.320900
<a href="#">detail</a>	1110061260014124074	1.33747	26.82104	2011-10-06T04:13:15	17.754499
<a href="#">detail</a>	1110061381024104474	356.03657	36.80955	2011-10-06T03:33:33	13.499000
<a href="#">detail</a>	1110061400994118958	0.05187	40.25335	2011-10-06T03:34:21	16.243401
<a href="#">detail</a>	1110041231084160493	326.91002	24.76496	2011-10-04T03:29:00	13.095100
<a href="#">detail</a>	1110031010314135324	85.39584	1.61888	2011-10-03T10:31:16	15.463400
<a href="#">detail</a>	1110031010314155163	86.49273	2.35178	2011-10-03T10:31:16	14.476900
<a href="#">detail</a>	1110011010184115318	48.67884	1.144	2011-10-01T09:37:28	17.697901
<a href="#">detail</a>	1109281260024143595	5.20995	28.19164	2011-09-28T09:57:55	13.314600
<a href="#">detail</a>	1109281210064142587	17.46047	22.40955	2011-09-28T09:27:52	13.341000
<a href="#">detail</a>	1109251210404110806	117.07339	20.36483	2011-09-25T12:03:04	13.236600
<a href="#">detail</a>	1109241260094142575	26.53255	27.99862	2011-09-24T10:40:14	13.490900




# PICKING AN EVENT


...from emailed alert:

**SkyAlert event CRTS#65193 (16.477690, -12.346840)** Inbox | X  

☆ from **SkyAlert** help@skyalert.org [hide details](#) 17 Nov (1 day ago) ↩ Reply ▼  
via ast.cam.ac.uk

sender time Sent at 10:08 (UTC). Current time there:  
16:36. 

to wyrzykow@ast.cam.ac.uk  
date 17 November 2011 10:08  
subject SkyAlert event CRTS#65193 (16.477690, -  
12.346840)

Skyalert email about event CRTS#65193  
At 2011-11-17T04:51:09, RA,Dec = (16.477690,-12.346840)   
The portfolio around this event is at <http://skyalert.org/events/65193>  
The trigger observation alone is here: <http://skyalert.org/event/121996>  
The XML for the trigger observation is here: <http://skyalert.org/event/xml/121996>  
Your alert named 'Catalina SNe' was the cause of this message with this trigger condition:  
(CRTSCircular["First"]["eventClass"]=="Supernova") and (CRTS["First Detection params"]["magnitude"]<17)

(A real-time action, such as this message, occurs when the trigger condition is true \*because\* of the trigger event, but is not true without it).

To cancel these alerts, go to <http://skyalert.org/rules/> and change/delete your alerts. You will have to login. Or just write [help@skyalert.org](mailto:help@skyalert.org)

↩ Reply → Forward



# PICKING AN EVENT

...from Skyalert.org directly:

## Streams

Here are the streams known to Skyalert. Click the Detail link to view or edit the stream. Some streams have first-class events that can have other events associated to form a 'portfolio'. Click the All Events link to see all the events from the stream, and pointers to any portfolios of which they are members.

### Stream Name Streams Portfolios Description

AAVSO	<a href="#">(Stream)</a>	<a href="#">(Portfolios)</a>	AAVSO Alerts & Special Notices
CBAT	<a href="#">(Stream)</a>	<a href="#">(Portfolios)</a>	Reports of possible discoveries of novae, supernovae, and new variable stars.
CRTS	<a href="#">(Stream)</a>	<a href="#">(Portfolios)</a>	Catalina Real-time Transient Survey
CRTS2	<a href="#">(Stream)</a>	<a href="#">(Portfolios)</a>	CRTS 1.5m Transients
CRTS3	<a href="#">(Stream)</a>	<a href="#">(Portfolios)</a>	CRTS Siding Spring Transients
CSS_NEO	<a href="#">(Stream)</a>	<a href="#">(Portfolios)</a>	Report of a moving object found by the Catalina Sky Survey
Fermi	<a href="#">(Stream)</a>	<a href="#">(Portfolios)</a>	Fermi events



## Portfolios

This page lists event portfolios whose first event is from this stream.

Events from stream [CRTS](#)

Click on the column header to sort. Table rows with gray background represent "test" events that do not represent anything in the sky.

detail meta.link	IVORN meta.id	RA pos.eq.ra deg	Dec pos.eq.dec deg	ISOtime time.epoch	Magnitude phot.mag;em.opt.R
<a href="#">detail</a>	1111181120424127237	118.19689	12.37233	2011-11-18T12:23:46	16.657801
<a href="#">detail</a>	1111181070424172387	118.28164	8.09614	2011-11-18T12:22:08	18.364100
<a href="#">detail</a>	1111181230384140281	115.13648	24.15011	2011-11-18T10:52:35	18.574400
<a href="#">detail</a>	1111181120414105186	115.5717	11.46381	2011-11-18T10:49:18	13.391700
<a href="#">detail</a>	1111181120274120028	74.74802	12.05281	2011-11-18T10:09:56	16.465099
<a href="#">detail</a>	1111181120284107174	77.83725	11.5787	2011-11-18T10:12:22	17.332100



# PICKING AN EVENT

**Portfolio ivo://nvo.caltech/voeventnet/catot#1111181120424127237**

From the [CRTS](#) stream.

Catalina Real-time Transient Survey

Position is 118.19689,12.37233  $\pm$  0.0012

This portfolio initiated 2011-11-18 05:32:05

Also available is the [JSON representation of this portfolio](#).

*Each event of the portfolio can be shown as Overview, Params, or XML. Click at the left to select the view.*

[Overview](#)

[Params](#)

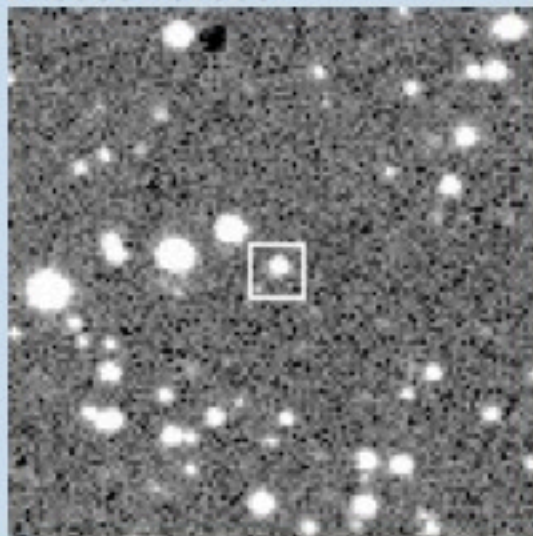
[XML](#)

[None](#)

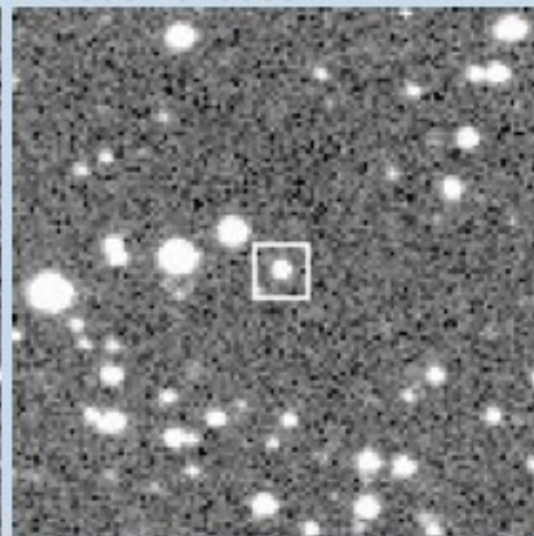
## **CRTS (Catalina/Mt Bigelow)**

Event identifier is 1111181120424127237 or CSS111118:075247+122220

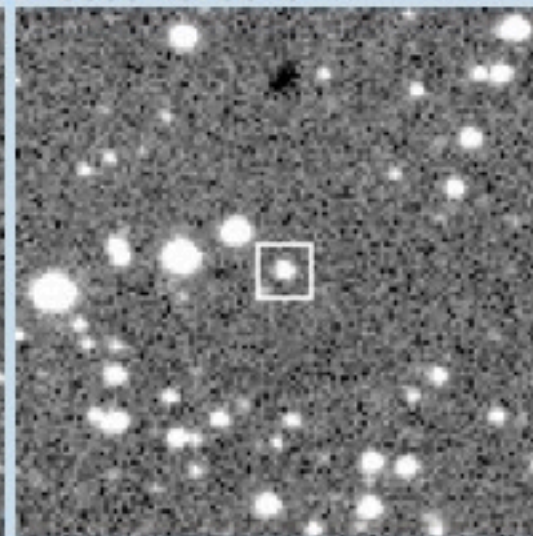
2455884.019367



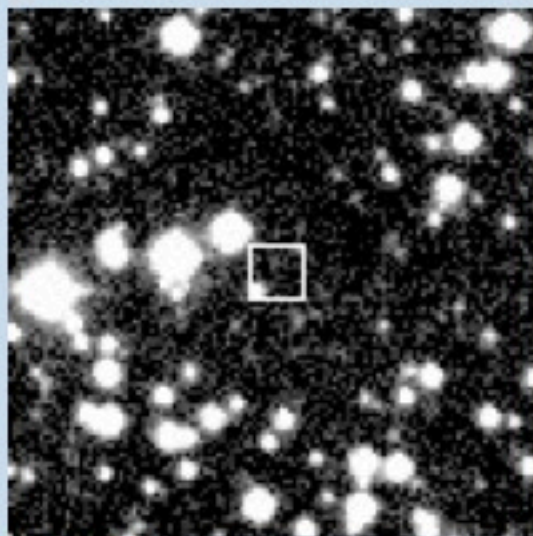
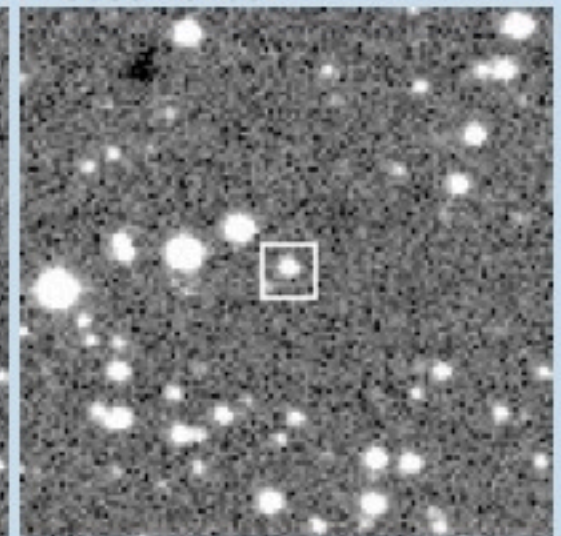
2455884.010803



2455884.013648



2455884.016514



Reference

Finding Chart [Click here](#)

Past CRTS images [Click here](#)

Other images [Click here](#)

Lightcurve [Click here](#)

SDSS cutout [Click here](#)

Position (118.19689,12.37233)

Time 2011-11-18T12:23:46 (MJD 55883.5165046)

Magnitude 16.647400

Magnitude 16.641899

Magnitude 16.676500

Magnitude 16.657801



# PICKING AN EVENT

Click on the points for associated images

Values for object: 1111181120424127237

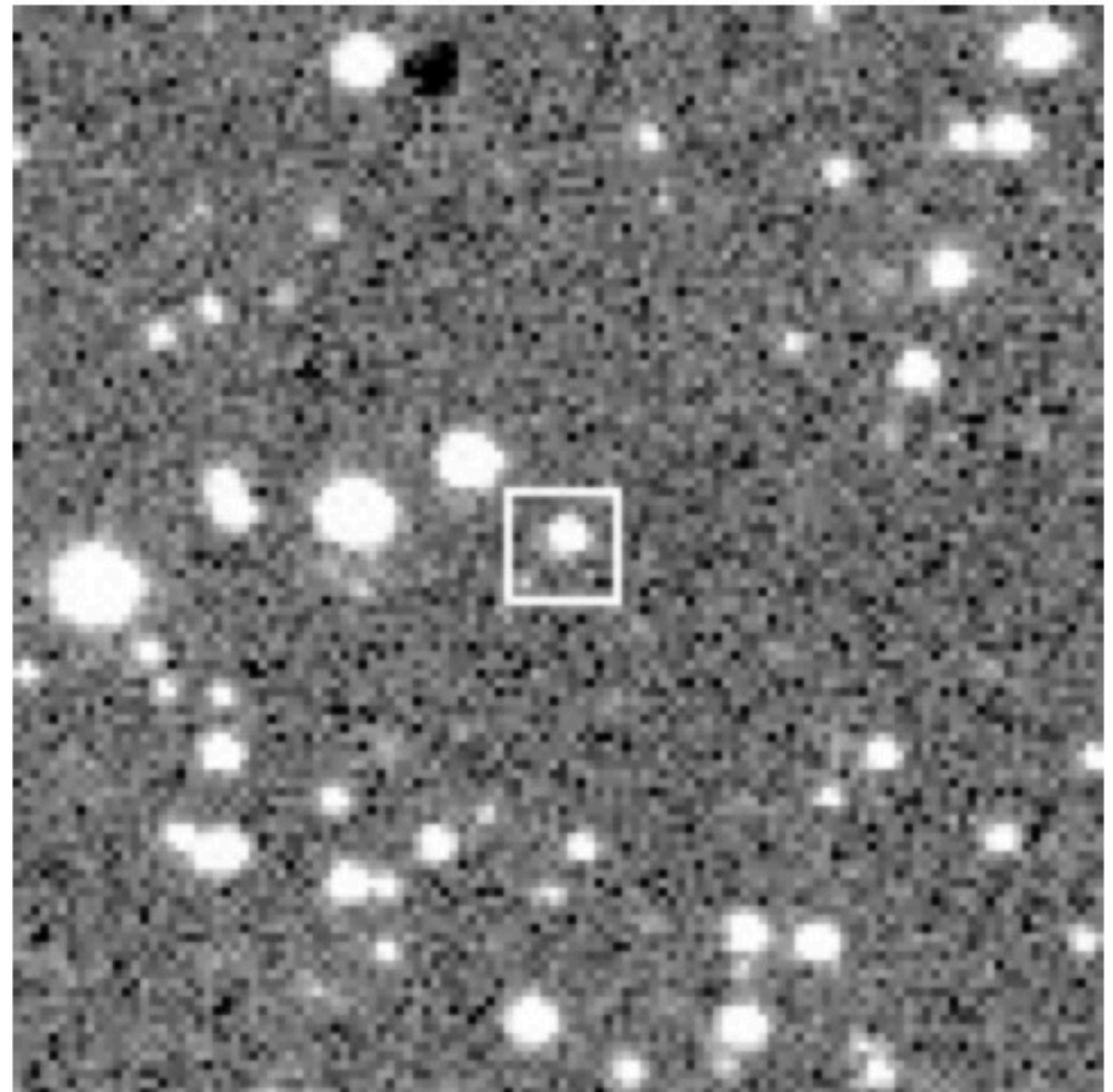
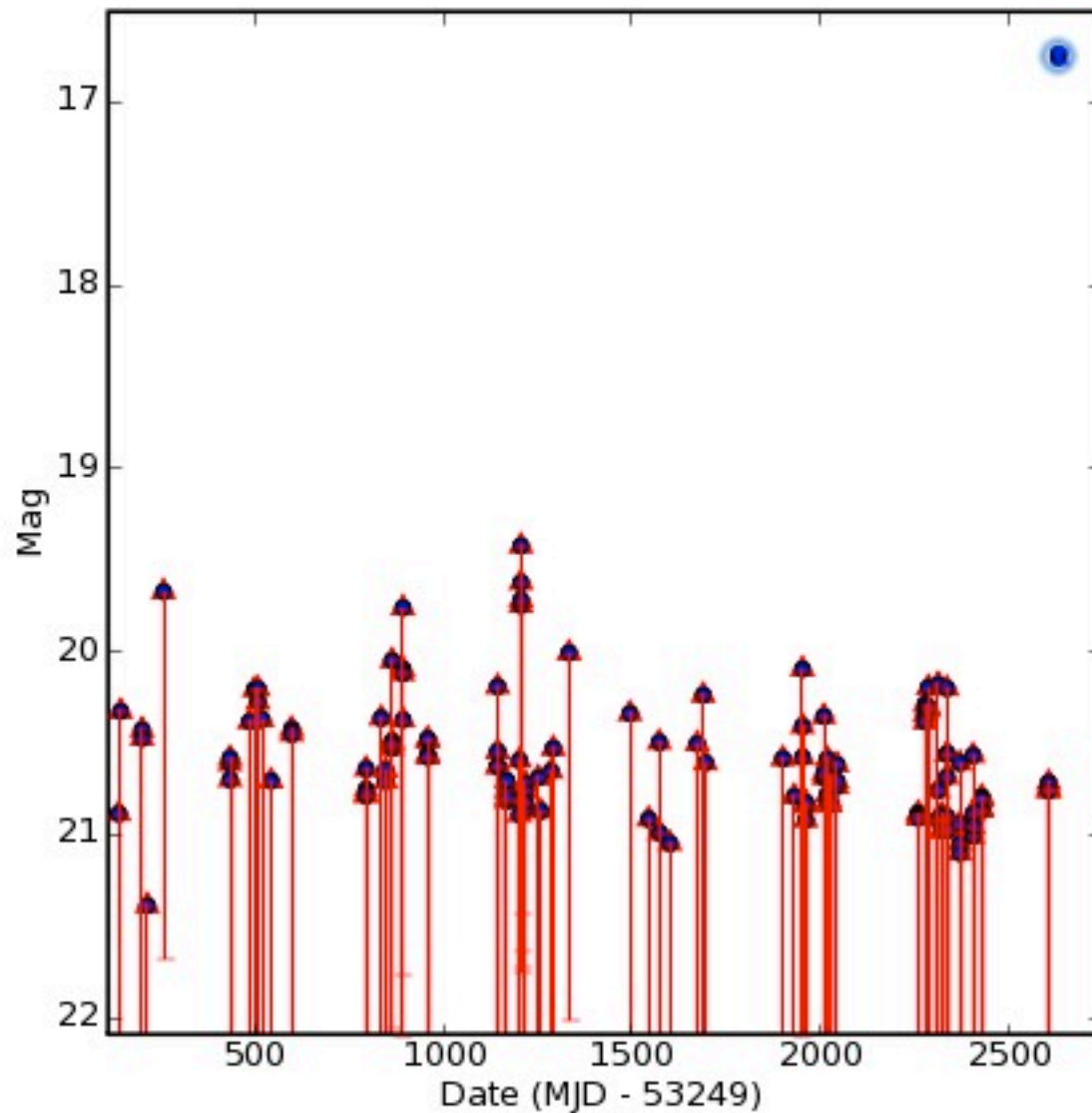
Date: 2634.439941 (2011-11-18)

Mag: 16.75375

Error: 0.033628

Red points upper limits

Blue points measurements





# OBSERVING AN EVENT

Here we rely on the experience of the observers on:

- exposure time
- what filters to use
- photometry/spectroscopy

## REQUIREMENTS ON DATA REDUCTIONS (photometry):

- Bias, Dark, Flat-field
- WCS
- SExtractor



Loiano Observatory, Italy



# UPLOADING THE FOLLOW-UP DATA

Gaia Science Alerts Follow-up

camd04.ast.cam.ac.uk:5000/uploader/

## Follow-up Data Uploading Form

Event ID:

Hash tag:

MJD OBS:

Exposure time:

Filter:

SExtractor catalog:

 Skyalert.org

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[Browse Event Streams](#) | [Browse Skyalert Feeds](#) | [my Feeds and Alerts](#)

Portfolio **ivo://nvo.caltech/voeventnet/catot#1111181120424127237**

From the [CRTS](#) stream.  
Catalina Real-time Transient Survey  
Position is 118.19689,12.37233 ± 0.0012  
This portfolio initiated 2011-11-18 05:32:05  
Also available is the [JSON representation of this portfolio](#).

Your unique access name/pass  
(provided by Cambridge)

## Gaia Science Alerts Calibration Server

List of alerts currently in the database:

id	IVORN	Ra	Dec	N_follow-up
1	<a href="ivo://nvo.caltech/voeventnet/catot#1111221010224122680">ivo://nvo.caltech/voeventnet/catot#1111221010224122680</a>	59.71914	1.55959	-
2	<a href="ivo://nvo.caltech/voeventnet/catot#1111221210174135477">ivo://nvo.caltech/voeventnet/catot#1111221210174135477</a>	49.69022	21.57691	-

### REQUIRED SEXTRACTOR FIELDS:

# ALPHA\_J2000 Right ascension of barycenter (J2000) [deg]  
# DELTA\_J2000 Declination of barycenter (J2000) [deg]

*then, either:*

# MAG\_APER Fixed aperture magnitude vector [mag]  
# MAGERR\_APER RMS error vector for fixed aperture mag. [mag]

*or:*

# MAG\_AUTO Automatic aperture magnitude [mag]  
# MAGERR\_AUTO RMS error for automatic aperture mag. [mag]



# RESULT OF CALIBRATIONS

Hi 536c \*\*\*\*\*

Upload done from IP 131.111.70.231 from hashtag 536 \*\*\*\*\*

EventId : ivo://nvo.caltech/voeventnet/catot#1106101350644123477

Ra : 214.61884

Dec : 35.71373

Filter: SDSS / r

Magnitude: 18.1738541917 +/- 0.0142 mag

ZP: -28.6588541917

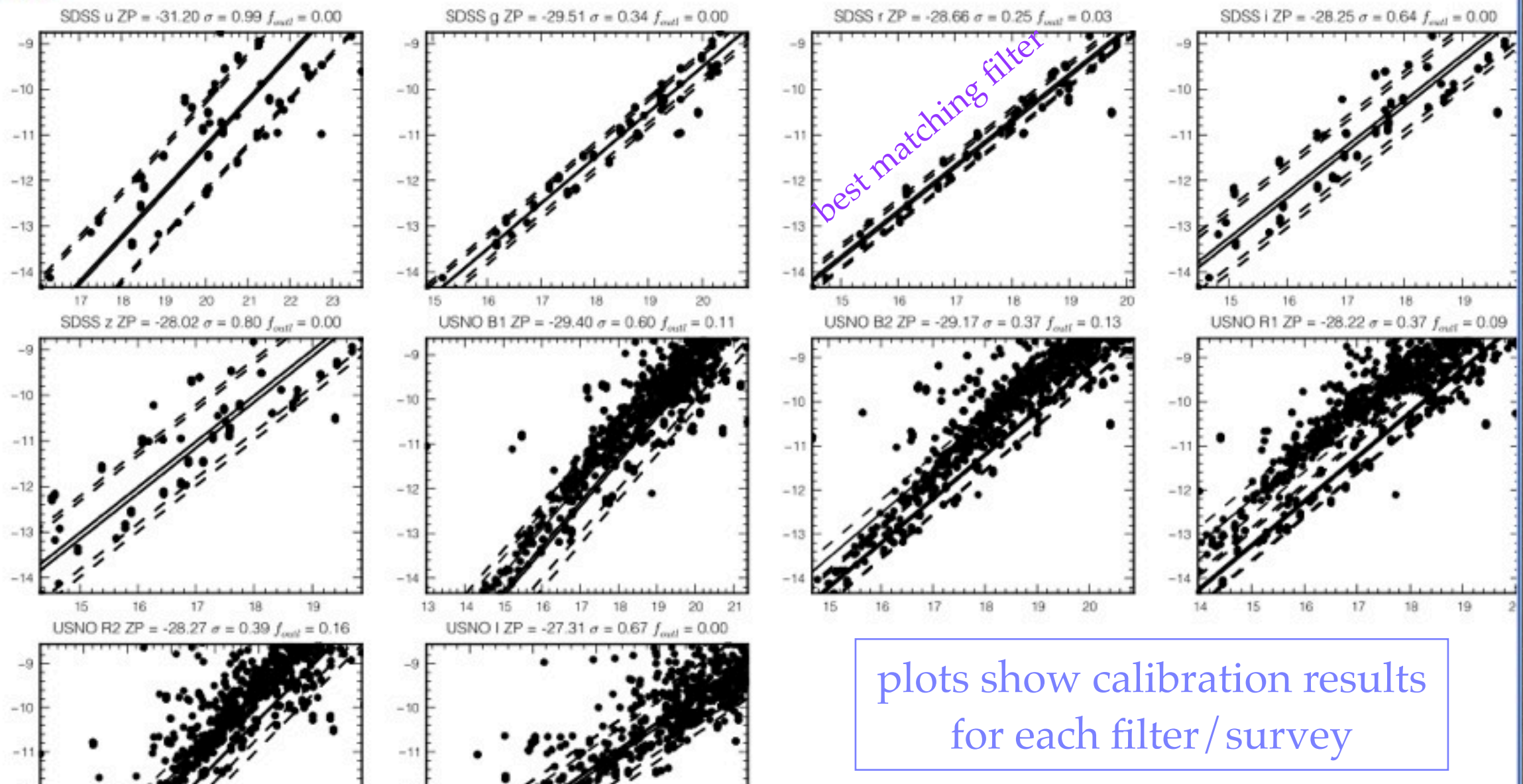
Scatter: 0.248369741493 mag

Plots:

best matching filter (data will be stored as in this filter)

calibrated magnitude

zero point





# RESULT OF CALIBRATIONS

Your observation is successfully stored in the GaiaFollowUpDB.  
All data and list of all alerts can be accessed from the link on the main page

## Follow-up Data Uploading Form

Event ID:

## Gaia Science Alerts Calibration Server

List of alerts currently in the database:

id	IVORN	Ra	Dec	N_follow-up
1	<a href="ivo://nvo.caltech/voeventnet/catot#1111221010224122680">ivo://nvo.caltech/voeventnet/catot#1111221010224122680</a>	59.71914	1.55959	-
2	<a href="ivo://nvo.caltech/voeventnet/catot#1111221210174135477">ivo://nvo.caltech/voeventnet/catot#1111221210174135477</a>	49.69022	21.57691	-
13	<a href="ivo://nvo.caltech/voeventnet/catot#1111181230384140281">ivo://nvo.caltech/voeventnet/catot#1111181230384140281</a>	115.13648	24.15011	-
14	<a href="ivo://nvo.caltech/voeventnet/catot#1111181120414105186">ivo://nvo.caltech/voeventnet/catot#1111181120414105186</a>	115.5717	11.46381	-
15	<a href="ivo://nvo.caltech/voeventnet/catot#1111181120274120028">ivo://nvo.caltech/voeventnet/catot#1111181120274120028</a>	74.74802	12.05281	3

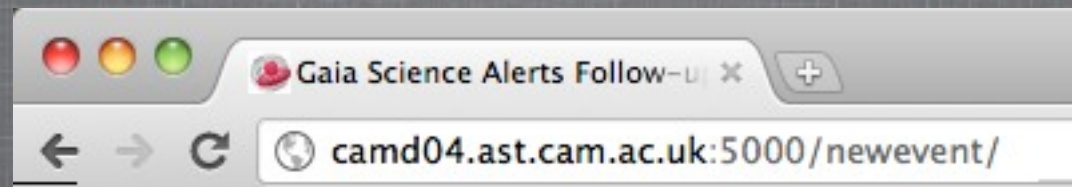
#MJD	obs_id	calib_error	catalog_id	filter_id	mag	mag_err
55891.956574		1	0.0540921		1	2 17.4923 0.0039
55891.967014		1	0.153242		1	3 17.1323 0.0056
55891.967014		2	0.153242		1	3 17.1323 0.0056

work in progress...



# ADDING NEW EVENT TO THE LIST

The list of events is regularly updated from Skyalert.org,  
but if you still want to add a new event go to:



## Creating New Event Form:

Hash password:

Event ID:

RA:

Dec:

URL:



# TO DO LIST

- Automatically submit the follow-up data back to Skyalert.org as an annotation
- Plotting light curves of already observed events on the web
- Expand the web interface, e.g. add scrollable list of events