GCN CIRCULAR 23927: INTEGRAL observation of IceCube-190221A


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Using INTEGRAL we have performed a search for a prompt gamma-ray counterpart of the cosmic neutrino candidate IceCube-190221A (GCN 23918).

At the time of the event (2019-02-21 08:25:40 UTC, hereafter T0), INTEGRAL was operating in nominal mode. The peak of the neutrino localization probability was at an angle of 20 deg with respect to the spacecraft pointing axis. This orientation implies strongly suppressed response of IBIS/Veto and SPI-ACS, but near-optimal response of IBIS out of its coded Field of View.

The background within +/-300 seconds around the event was very stable. We do not detect any significant counterparts and estimate a 3-sigma upper limit on the 75-2000 keV fluence of 5.2e-07 erg/cm^2 for a burst lasting less than 1 s with a characteristic short GRB spectrum (an exponentially cut off power law with alpha=-0.5 and Ep=600 keV) occurring at any time in the interval within 300 s around T0.

For a typical long GRB spectrum (Band function with alpha=-1, beta=-2.5, and Ep=300 keV), the derived peak flux upper limit is ~4.7e-07 (1.7e-07) erg/cm^2/s at 1 s (0 s) time scale in 75-2000 keV energy range.