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## Supplementary Materials for

### **Multimessenger observations of a flaring blazar coincident with high-energy neutrino IceCube-170922A**

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Published 13 July 2018, *Science* **361**, eaat1378 (2018)  
DOI: 10.1126/science.aat1378

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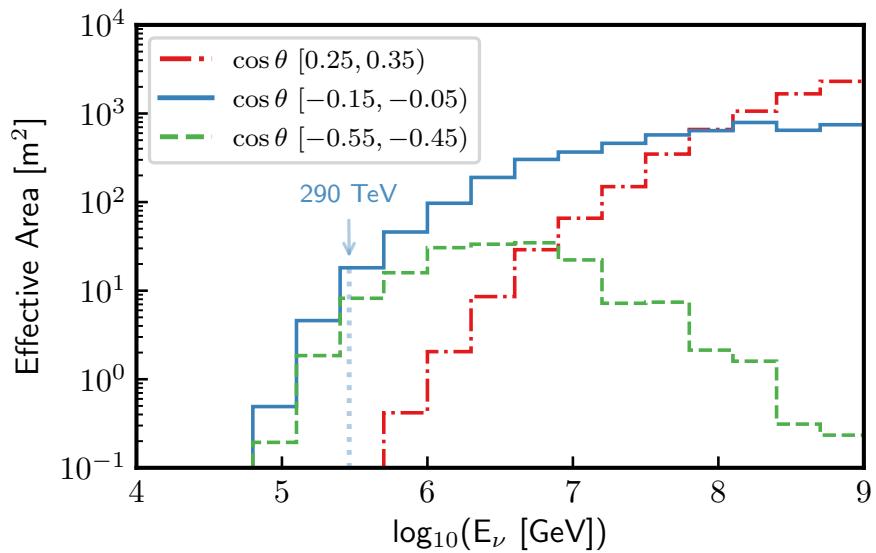
## **IceCube**

IceCube is a cubic-kilometer-sized neutrino detector (*13*) installed in the ice at the geographic South Pole, Antarctica between depths of 1450 m and 2450 m. The detector consists of 5160 digital optical modules (DOMs) attached to 86 cables (called strings), each instrumented with 60 DOMs. The strings are arranged in a hexagonal pattern with 125 m average horizontal spacing. Each DOM consists of a glass pressure-resistant sphere containing a photomultiplier and electronics, and operates independently producing digital signals, which are transmitted to the surface along the string. Detector construction was completed in 2010, and IceCube has operated with an  $\sim$ 99% duty cycle since then.

IceCube does not directly observe neutrinos, but rather the secondary particles produced in the neutrino interaction with matter. IceCube detects these particles by observing the Cherenkov light emitted as they travel through the ice. The ability to accurately determine the direction of a neutrino event recorded in IceCube is highly dependent on the ability to reconstruct the trajectories of these secondary particles. The secondary particles produce two distinct classes of signals within the instrumented volume: tracks and cascades. Track events, the primary focus of the IceCube alert system, are produced by muons, arising primarily from the charged-current interaction of muon-type neutrinos, which produce tracks with lengths of the order of a few kilometers. These tracks can be reconstructed with a directional uncertainty less than 1 deg, but with a large uncertainty on the neutrino energy since an unmeasured fraction of their energy is deposited outside the instrumented volume.

The IceCube neutrino alerts are generated in real time by applying direction and energy estimates to all events as the data are collected (*14*), and notifying the astronomical community immediately of a candidate astrophysical neutrino event. IceCube-170922A was generated by the “EHE” through-going track selection in the real-time alert system. The event selection was inspired by the event requirements used to search for cosmogenic/GZK neutrinos (*69*) and was modified for online use to give a larger number of astrophysical neutrinos. The sensitivity of this event selection is highlighted by the effective area for several zenith angle ranges, shown in Figure S1. The zenith angle of IceCube-170922A ( $\cos(\text{zenith}) = -0.1$ ) was in the most sensitive zenith acceptance range, a direction where atmospheric muons are easily blocked, but neutrino absorption in the Earth has not depleted the high-energy neutrino flux.

**Calculations of systematic uncertainties for IceCube-170922A** The directional resolution of muon tracks passing through the IceCube detector is limited by the stochastic nature of the detected light, the finite density of DOMs where Cherenkov light is detected and the uncertainty in the optical properties of the glacial ice (*70*). We modeled the expected uncertainty due to these statistical and systematic effects by re-simulating a large sample of candidate events



**Figure S1: Neutrino effective area for the through-going track alert channel.** Effective area for the online through-going track (“EHE”) selection in three zenith angle ranges. The zenith angle of IceCube-170922A was  $\text{cos}(\text{zenith}) = -0.1$ , a preferred direction for this event selection. In the range  $-0.55$  to  $-0.45$  ( $\sim 30$  deg below the horizon) a strong absorption by the Earth at the highest neutrino energies is seen, while in the interval  $0.25$  to  $0.35$  ( $\sim 20$  deg above the horizon) strong cuts on track energy are needed to suppress the background from cosmic-ray muons, limiting sensitivity below 1 PeV. The most probable neutrino energy of 290 TeV is also shown.

similar to the observed event, and studying the distance of their best-fitting directions from their true simulated direction.

A dedicated simulation set was generated containing muon tracks passing through the same part of the detector as the originally observed event (closer than 30 m from the original best-fitting track at any point within the instrumented volume and within 2 deg of the best-fitting direction) and with a similar energy loss pattern (total deposited charge within  $\pm 20\%$  of the original charge). Each event was simulated using an ice model sampled from the space of ice models compatible with the current baseline best-fitting ice model (71).

Each event in this simulation set is reconstructed using the same method as is applied to the observed event and a test statistic (TS), defined as the difference in log-likelihood ( $L$ ) between the best-fitting direction and the true direction is recorded as  $TS = 2(\log L_{\text{true}} - \log L_{\text{best}})$ . The 50% and 90% percentiles of the distribution of TS over this simulation set are recorded and used to draw the 50% and 90% contour lines in the reconstructed likelihood fit at the corresponding likelihood ratios.

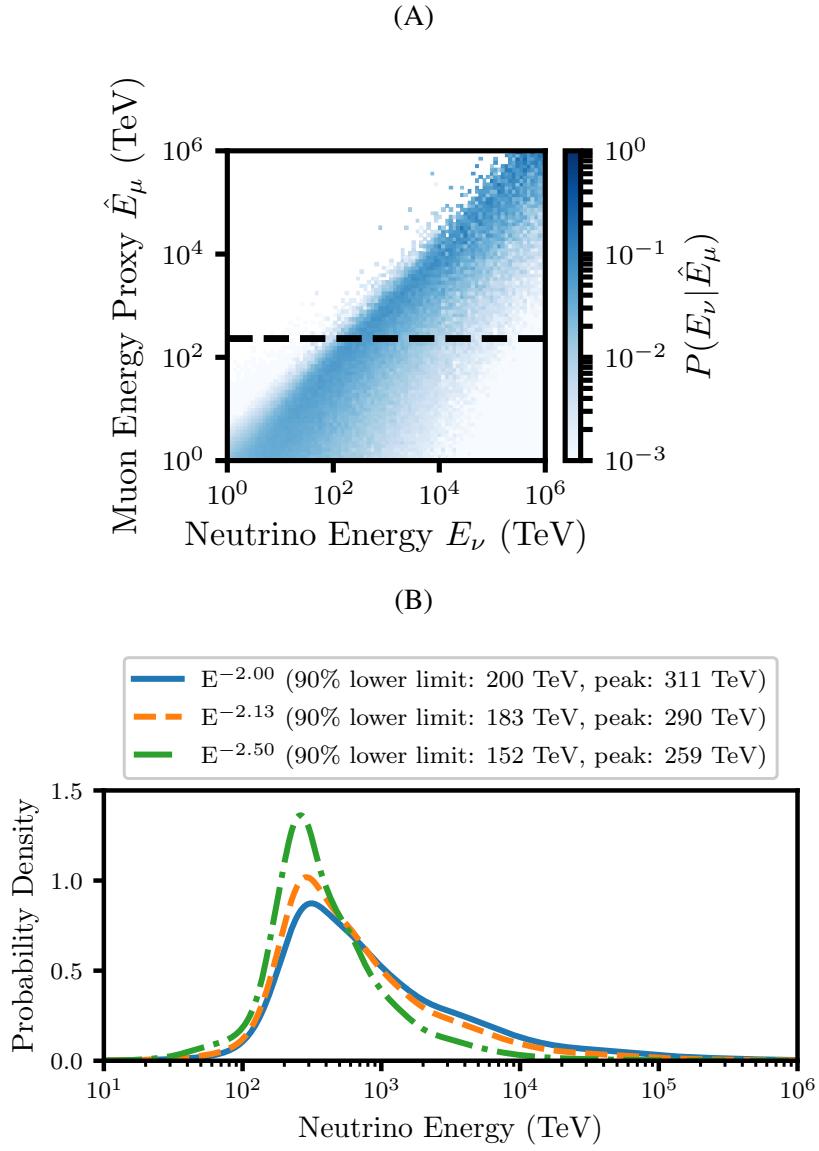
This algorithm allows us to include the uncertainty in the modeling of optical properties of the glacial ice into the fit uncertainty providing a combined statistical and systematic error (taking into account ice model systematics only). By construction, this method is not able to shift the best-fitting direction of the reconstruction and will include systematic bias on average only.

**Calculation of the neutrino energy** As IceCube detects the secondary muon produced in the neutrino’s interaction in or near the instrumented volume, a precise determination of the neutrino energy is generally not possible for track events. However, for high-energy muons, a robust estimation of the energy of the muon as it traverses the instrumented volume is available (72, 73). Muons above  $\sim 1$  TeV experience large stochastic energy losses due to pair production, bremsstrahlung, and photo-nuclear interactions. These energy losses grow with muon energy and can be used to estimate the energy as the muon passes through the detector.

Figure S2 presents the measured muon energy (72) observed in simulation of neutrino track events for a wide range of neutrino energies. The exact distribution of muon energies will depend on the assumed neutrino spectral index. For the observed muon energy of the IceCube-170922A track, the most-probable neutrino energy and the 90% C.L. lower limit can be calculated, and is shown in Figure S2 for three spectral indices. Using the measured spectral index of  $-2.13$  ( $-2.0$ ) for the estimated diffuse astrophysical muon neutrino spectrum (2), the most-probable neutrino energy of 290 TeV (311 TeV), a 90% C.L. lower limit on the neutrino energy of 183 TeV (200 TeV), and a 90% C.L. upper limit on the neutrino energy of 4.3 PeV (7.5 PeV) are determined.

## High-energy $\gamma$ -ray observations

**Generation of the *Fermi*-LAT light curves of TXS 0506+056** The light curve is based on Pass 8 SOURCE class photons detected in the time interval from the start of the science phase



**Figure S2: Estimate of neutrino energy for IceCube-170922A.** Estimate of the neutrino energy of IceCube-170922A derived from an estimator of the muon energy in the detector (72). Note that the muon energy estimator is not equivalent to the deposited energy as the muon passed through the detector. The deposited muon energy sets a lower limit on the neutrino and muon energies. Panel A presents the 2-D distribution of neutrino energy vs. muon energy estimator (“Muon Energy Proxy”) from simulation. The observed energy estimator is indicated by a horizontal dashed black line. Assuming a prior distribution of true neutrino energies (modeled as power-law spectra with various indices), a probability distribution of true neutrino energies for the event can be derived (Panel B). For each neutrino spectral index, the 90% C.L. lower limit and most probable (“peak”) neutrino energies are listed. The result is only weakly dependent on the chosen spectral index.

of the mission in 4 August, 2008 to 24 October, 2017. This is the recommended class for most analyses and provides good sensitivity for analysis of point sources. Standard good-time intervals were selected excluding time intervals when the field of view of the LAT intersected the Earth, and during which bright  $\gamma$ -ray bursts and solar flares were observed.

A binned maximum likelihood technique (binned in space and energy) was applied using the standard *Fermi*-LAT Science-Tools package version v11r05p02 available from the *Fermi* Science Support Center (FSSC) (74) and the P8R2\_SOURCE\_V6 instrument response functions. Data in the energy range of 100 MeV to 1 TeV were binned into eight equally spaced logarithmic energy intervals per decade. To minimize the contamination from the  $\gamma$ -rays produced in Earth’s upper atmosphere, a zenith angle cut of  $< 90$  deg was applied.

A  $10 \text{ deg} \times 10 \text{ deg}$  region of interest (ROI) was selected centered on the assumed source position and binned in 0.1 deg pixels. The input model for the ROI included all known  $\gamma$ -ray sources from the *Fermi*-LAT Third Source Catalog (3FGL) (23). We refined the best-fitting position of TXS 0506+056, including the additional data taken since the release of the 3FGL catalog. Similarly, we searched for additional sources in the ROI that may be significantly detected in the current data set, but were too faint to be included in this catalog, a standard procedure (75). The model of the ROI included the isotropic and Galactic diffuse components (gll\_iem\_ext\_v06.fits and iso\_P8R2\_SOURCE\_V6\_v06.txt). To build the light curve, the spectral functional forms given in the 3FGL/3FHL (24) catalog for each source in the ROI were adopted. For each time interval analyzed for the light curve, the flux normalization of TXS 0506+056 and of other sources within 3 deg of it were free parameters, while the spectral shapes were fixed to their forms in the overall best-fitting model for the entire 9.5-year dataset starting in August 2008. Light curves for TXS 0506+056 were created with a time binning of 28 days over the full *Fermi*-LAT observation period, and a binning of 7 days around the time of the IceCube neutrino alert.

Similar light curves, but with an energy threshold of 1 GeV and using 28 day bins only, were compiled for all extragalactic *Fermi*-LAT sources (time binning and energy threshold were chosen to reduce the required computing resources). All sources from the four-year source catalog (3FGL) and the six-year hard source catalog (3FHL) (24) which are classified as extragalactic objects were included. Unclassified sources were added if they were more than 5 deg from the Galactic equator. Sources that were marked with an analysis flag (23), were removed. In total, 2257 sources were selected. These light curves were used in the calculation of the chance coincidence probability of the apparent neutrino-flaring blazar correlation. Very bright sources were modeled with log-parabolic spectra. For the light curve generation, the spectra of the sources were kept fixed to the values obtained from a fit over the total observation period. The limited statistics in the 28 day time bins do not allow fitting bin-by-bin spectral parameters for most sources.

***Fermi*-LAT real-time follow up pipelines** Following the neutrino alert, the quick recognition of the coincident blazar flare was made possible by automated high-level software pipelines developed by the LAT collaboration that provide continuous monitoring of the  $\gamma$ -ray sky. The Au-

tomated Science Processing (ASP) (76) and the *Fermi* All-sky Variability Analysis (FAVA) (30) are model independent techniques that search for variations in  $\gamma$ -ray flux, on timescales from hours to one week. The statistical significances of the candidate sources identified by ASP and FAVA are subsequently evaluated with the more robust maximum-likelihood technique, and further inspected by the so-called Flare Advocates in the LAT collaboration, who communicate significant results to the external scientific community through the *Fermi* multi-wavelength mailing list, Astronomer’s Telegrams, and direct e-mail (77). Significant flares seen with ASP are reported automatically as Gamma-ray Coordinates Network notices (78).

ASP is based on the source detection algorithm PGWave (79), used also in the *Fermi*-LAT catalog pipeline to identify candidate sources. PGWave applies a two-dimensional Mexican Hat wavelet filtering to find significant clusters of photons in the LAT data from different intervals (6-hour, 1-day and 1-week) and in three energy ranges (0.1 GeV – 300 GeV, 0.1 GeV – 1 GeV and 1 GeV – 300 GeV).

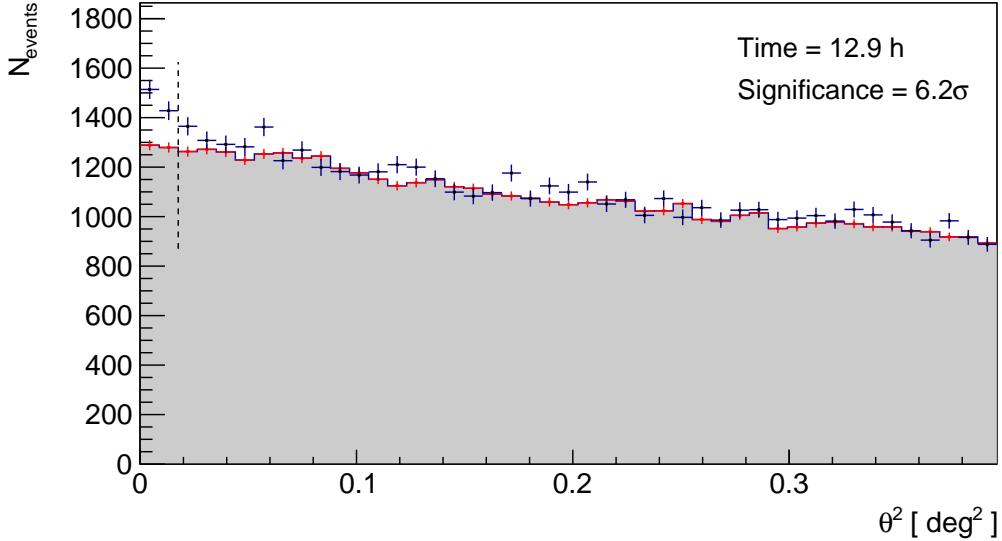
FAVA searches for  $\gamma$ -ray variability on a weekly time scale in a low and high energy bands, *i.e.*, from 0.1 GeV to 0.8 GeV and from 0.8 GeV to 300 GeV. A photometric technique is used to compare the weekly flux to the long-term average flux over the first four years of the mission in a grid of regions covering the entire sky. If the photometric technique finds a deviation from the average in at least one of the two energy bands with a significance greater than  $4\sigma$ , a maximum likelihood analysis is applied. This models the ROI, including background sources and the diffuse emission, taking into account the LAT PSF that is applied to accurately assess the statistical significance.

The FAVA results are updated in real time and are displayed in a public web interface (80). FAVA has been used as a tool to quickly find potentially variable sources in the neutrino error circle. In the time bin during which IceCube-170922A arrived, FAVA reported a significance at the position of TXS 0506+056 obtained in the likelihood analysis of  $6.5\sigma$  in the low-energy band and  $6.9\sigma$  in the high-energy band.

**AGILE** The  $\gamma$ -ray satellite *AGILE* (31) monitors the sky in spinning mode in the energy range 30 MeV–30 GeV. *AGILE* detected enhanced  $\gamma$ -ray emission above 100 MeV from the IceCube-170922A/TXS 0506+056 region and reported this in an Astronomer’s Telegram, issued 7 days after the neutrino detection (58).

A refined analysis of the data acquired with the *AGILE* imaging  $\gamma$ -ray detector leads to significant detections from this region on short and long timescales before and near the time of the IceCube neutrino alert, compatible with the flaring activity observed by *Fermi*-LAT from TXS 0506+056.

The *AGILE*  $\gamma$ -ray flux above 100 MeV from TXS 0506+056, estimated with the *AGILE* Maximum Likelihood (ML) algorithm (81) in a time window of 13 days centered at MJD 58012.5 (16 September, 2017) is found to be  $(5.3 \pm 2.1) \times 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . The corresponding energy flux density of this *AGILE* observation, scaled at 200 MeV assuming a power-law index of -2, is  $(8.8 \pm 3.5) \times 10^{-11} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ .



**Figure S3: Significance of the VHE  $\gamma$ -ray signal from TXS 0506+056 as measured by MAGIC.** Distribution of the squared angular distance,  $\theta^2$ , between the re-constructed source position and the nominal source position (blue points) or the background estimation position (shaded area) for the direction of the blazar TXS 0506+056. Statistical uncertainties on the number of signal (blue markers) or background (red markers) events are shown as vertical error bars. The number of excess events ( $N_{\text{ex}} = 374 \pm 62$ ) and significance (82) are calculated in the region from 0 to the vertical dashed line. The estimated energy threshold is 90 GeV.

## Very-high-energy $\gamma$ -ray observations

**MAGIC** MAGIC followed-up 4 of the 10 IceCube alerts that had been issued by 1 October, 2017. The properties of the events that were followed-up are listed in Table S1. For the alerts issued before September 2017 no signal was detected by MAGIC within the 50% containment radius reported by IceCube (15).

MAGIC performed the first observations of the reported IceCube-170922A event direction for 2 hours on 24 September, 2017 (32 hours after the IceCube alert was issued), under non-optimal weather conditions. The standard MAGIC analysis framework MARS was used for the data analysis (34). After data quality selection, 1.07 hours of observations were used to derive an upper limit on the TXS 0506+056 flux above 90 GeV of  $3.56 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 95% C.L. The upper limit was calculated (83) assuming a 30% systematic uncertainty in the estimated  $\gamma$ -ray detection efficiency of MAGIC. Observations were resumed on 28 September, 2017. With good observational conditions, data from 28 September, 2017 and 29 September, 2017 revealed hints of a signal, with an excess observed at the  $\sim 3.5 \sigma$  significance level. The significance of this signal grew steadily over the following nights, motivating the long exposure. Analysis

Table S1: **Neutrino alerts selected as MAGIC targets.** For each set of targeted observations, the position, directional uncertainty and reported deposited energy from the neutrino alert are listed. Additionally, MAGIC zenith angle ranges and times over which observations were made are listed.

IceCube-	160427A	160731A	170321A	<b>170922A</b>
<i>From IceCube:</i>				
Right Ascension [deg]	240.57	214.54	98.33	<b>77.43</b>
Declination [deg]	9.34	−0.33	−14.48	<b>5.72</b>
Median angular resolution [deg]	0.60	0.33	0.33	<b>0.25</b>
Deposited energy [TeV]	~140	<100	>120	>23
<i>MAGIC data taking:</i>				
Zenith angle range [deg]	18 - 26	45-65	45-60	<b>22-52</b>
Effective observation time [h]	1.85	1.3	1.0	<b>12.9</b>

cuts optimized for Crab Nebula detection above 90 GeV were applied to the data. Integrating 12.9 hours of good quality data, MAGIC detected a clear signal with  $374 \pm 62$  excess events at the location of the blazar TXS 0506+056 (RA: 77.36 deg, Dec: +5.69 deg (J2000) (19)). The combined signal is shown in Figure S3. The day-to-day results from the MAGIC observations are provided in Table S2. Observations with a detection significance of less than  $2\sigma$  are reported as flux upper limits at 95% C.L., again including a 30% systematic uncertainty on the detection efficiency.

The MAGIC VHE  $\gamma$ -ray observations can be used to determine an upper limit for the redshift of TXS 0506+056 constraining the attenuation of the VHE flux due to interaction with the EBL (10, 11). These redshift limits are derived from assumed properties of the intrinsic spectrum, the measured VHE spectrum from MAGIC and models for the EBL. Here, the intrinsic spectrum is assumed to be a simple power-law  $dN/dE \propto E^\gamma$ , with the index constrained to be  $\gamma < -1.5$ . For each assumed redshift value, the VHE gamma-ray spectrum is evaluated including attenuation with the EBL and the expected rate of  $\gamma$ -ray events is calculated using the MAGIC instrument response. A likelihood test is constructed by comparing the expected event rates to those observed in the source region and in the background control regions. The likelihood ( $L$ ) is maximized by allowing the intrinsic spectral model parameters to vary and treating uncertainties in the cosmic-ray induced background as nuisance parameters. Performing a scan in redshift, at each step the profile likelihood following (84) is used to derive an upper limit to the source redshift at 95% C.L. When the maximum likelihood value is obtained for  $z=0$ , the so-called "bounded likelihood" approach is followed, *i.e.* the increase in  $-2 \ln \mathcal{L}$  is computed relative to its value at  $z=0$ . The dominant experimental systematics are evaluated by varying the simulated total light throughput of the instrument (including effects in the atmosphere) by  $\pm 15\%$ . The most conservative value derived from all realizations is taken as a result for the upper limit.

For TXS 0506+056, the redshift upper limit ranges from 0.61 to 0.67 at 95% C.L. adopting

the EBL models from (85–87). More conservative are the results obtained using the models from (88–90) for which the redshift upper limit ranges from 0.83 to 0.98 at 95% C.L. Considering a lower confidence level of 90% C.L. the results are in better agreement, the full range of upper limits values for all EBL models considered here being 0.41 to 0.57. Conservatively, the resulting 95% confidence level upper limit on the source redshift is  $z < 0.98$  taking into account a 15% systematic uncertainty on the total light throughput of the instrument (11). These results are consistent with the measured redshift of  $z=0.3365$  (28).

**Table S2: MAGIC nightly observations of TXS 0506+056.** Summary of MAGIC observations for each night’s observation of TXS 0506+056, including: date corresponding to the middle of the observation window; effective observation time after quality cuts; integral photon flux above 90 GeV, with flux upper limits (indicated by  $<$ ) given at 95% C.L.; and per-night significance.

Date MJD	Effective time [hours]	Flux $> 90$ GeV [ph cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$ ]	Significance $\sigma$
58020.16	1.07	$< 3.6 \times 10^{-11}$	0
58024.21	1.25	$< 6.2 \times 10^{-11}$	1.8
58025.18	2.9	$< 5.8 \times 10^{-11}$	1.0
58026.17	3.0	$< 3.6 \times 10^{-11}$	0.95
58027.18	2.9	$1.9 \pm 1.2 \times 10^{-11}$	2.5
58028.23	0.8	$< 5.8 \times 10^{-11}$	1.7
58029.22	1.3	$5.9 \pm 1.5 \times 10^{-11}$	4.3
58030.24	0.65	$8.0 \pm 2.0 \times 10^{-11}$	5.4

**H.E.S.S.** The High Energy Stereoscopic System (H.E.S.S.) of imaging atmospheric Cherenkov telescopes has been routinely performing follow-up observations of high-energy neutrinos detected by IceCube and ANTARES since 2015. The H.E.S.S. system has been designed to automatically react to neutrino alerts, allowing for a search for VHE  $\gamma$ -ray sources in coincidence with a neutrino detection on timescales that range from a few tens of seconds to several days (91). In the past, several neutrino alerts were followed up by H.E.S.S. (92). All follow-up observations of IceCube alerts performed by H.E.S.S. are summarized in Table S3.

H.E.S.S. performed follow-up observations towards the direction of the blazar TXS 0506+056 during the nights of 22 September, 2017 and 23 September, 2017 after the detection of a high-energy neutrino by IceCube. Initial observations started  $\sim$ 4 hours after the circulation of the neutrino alert (18). A preliminary on-site analysis did not reveal any significant  $\gamma$ -ray emission (60) for this data set. A second set of observations was acquired during the nights of 27 September, 2017 and 28 September, 2017 following the announcement of *Fermi*-LAT that TXS 0506+056 was in an active state and positionally coincident with the direction of the neutrino event (16). In total 3.25 hours of high-quality observations including the central large telescope (CT5) were obtained at zenith angles ranging from 31 deg to 46 deg.

**Table S3: Neutrino follow-up observations performed by H.E.S.S.** IceCube-170922A represents the IceCube alert which was followed up with the longest exposure and the shortest delay. The long exposure was taken following the *Fermi*-LAT announcement of TXS 0506+056 being in a high emission state (16).

Date	Alert identifier	Delay of observations	Duration of observations
Apr 27, 2016	IceCube-160427A	2d 15h	2h
Jul 31, 2016	IceCube-160731A	16h	2h
Nov 3, 2016	IceCube-161103A	12h	2h
<b>Sep 22, 2017</b>	<b>IceCube-170922A</b>	<b>4h</b>	<b>3h 14m</b>

The 3.25 hours of CT5 data were analyzed in mono mode using the Model Analysis (93) with *loose* cuts to achieve a low energy threshold. No  $\gamma$ -ray emission at a significant level was detected and upper limits on the VHE  $\gamma$ -ray flux have been calculated. The best fit spectral index of  $-3.9$  as measured from the MAGIC data was used as the spectral assumption. Limits at 95% C.L. were derived using the Rolke method (94) and assuming a systematic uncertainty of 30%. Negative excess fluctuations of the measured counts in the signal region were taken into account by replacing them with the measured background counts, scaled with the signal region exposure time.

The limits and fluxes were calculated for each night of the data set individually. They are shown in Figure 3 and summarized in Table S4 above an energy threshold of 175 GeV. The table and figure also include flux upper limits from two archival observation campaigns from September 2015 and December 2015 to January 2016. Additionally, differential flux upper limits were calculated for the whole 3.25 hour dataset. They are depicted in Figure 4 and summarized in Table S5. All results have been cross-checked with an independent calibration and analysis chain (95), which showed consistent results.

**Table S4: Flux upper limits from H.E.S.S. for TXS 0506+056.** Archival and nightly  $\gamma$ -ray flux upper limits at 95% confidence level for TXS 0506+056 derived from the H.E.S.S. observations assuming an  $E^{-3.9}$  energy spectrum.

MJD [days]	Observation time [h]	Flux $> 175$ GeV [ph cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$ ]
57286 – 57288	5.4	$< 7.2 \times 10^{-12}$
57358 – 57390	4.4	$< 1.1 \times 10^{-11}$
58019.07	1.35	$< 1.0 \times 10^{-11}$
58024.08	0.48	$< 1.8 \times 10^{-11}$
58025.08	1.65	$< 1.8 \times 10^{-11}$

Table S5: **H.E.S.S. differential  $\gamma$ -ray flux upper limits for TXS 0506+056.** Flux upper limits ( $f_\gamma$ ) at 95% C.L. obtained for the full TXS 0506+056 H.E.S.S. data set and assuming an  $E^{-3.9}$  energy spectrum.  $E_{\min}$  and  $E_{\max}$  define the energy range over which the differential flux upper limit is derived.

$E_{\min}$ [TeV]	$E_{\max}$ [TeV]	$f_\gamma$ [cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$ TeV $^{-1}$ ]
0.16	0.28	$< 6.6 \times 10^{-11}$
0.28	0.48	$< 2.1 \times 10^{-11}$
0.48	0.85	$< 4.5 \times 10^{-12}$
0.85	1.50	$< 1.8 \times 10^{-12}$
1.50	2.63	$< 5.9 \times 10^{-13}$
2.63	4.62	$< 3.3 \times 10^{-13}$

**VERITAS** The Very Energetic Radiation Imaging Telescope Array System (VERITAS) (33), was used to perform follow-up observations of IceCube-170922A. Observations started on 23 September 2017 at 09:06 UTC, 12.2 hours after the IceCube detection, accumulating an exposure of one hour under partial cloud coverage in normal observation mode. Additional VERITAS observations were collected following the *Fermi*-LAT report of the detection of a hard GeV  $\gamma$ -ray flare from the blazar TXS 0506+056 located within the neutrino error region. Five additional hours were collected during the period between 28 September 2017 at 08:57 UTC and 30 September 2017 at 11:04 UTC (5.5 to 7.6 days after the neutrino detection), resulting in a total exposure of 5.5 hours for the entire data set after quality cuts.

An analysis of the data optimized for soft-spectrum sources shows no evidence of  $\gamma$ -ray emission at the blazar location or anywhere else in the 3.5 deg VERITAS field of view. The integral  $\gamma$ -ray flux upper limit derived from the VERITAS observations at the TXS 0506+056 position is  $1.2 \times 10^{-11}$  cm $^{-2}$  s $^{-1}$  at 95% C.L. above an energy threshold of 175 GeV assuming the power-law photon spectral index of -3.9 from the MAGIC data.

All limits were calculated using the method described in (84) with the requirement of a minimum of 10 events present in the off-source region to reduce the uncertainty in the estimation of the background rate. The systematic uncertainty in the energy scale of VERITAS is 15% to 20% (96). Differential  $\gamma$ -ray flux upper limits are listed in Table S7 at 95% C.L. for observations obtained within two weeks of the neutrino alert. These observations, with the addition of historical observations of the blazar TXS 0506+056 performed by VERITAS prior to the detection of IceCube-170922A, were used to calculate light-curve integral flux upper limits above a threshold of 175 GeV which are listed in Table S6. For observation periods where the VERITAS energy threshold was higher than 175 GeV, the upper limits were scaled to this value by conservatively assuming a photon spectral index of  $-4.3$  based on a  $1\sigma$  deviation of the index from the MAGIC data ( $-3.9 \pm 0.4$ ).

VERITAS observations of IceCube-170922A were performed as part of the VERITAS neu-

trino follow-up program (97). Prompt follow-up observations performed by VERITAS under this program in response to alerts prior to the IceCube-170922A are included in Table S8.

**Table S6: Flux upper limits from VERITAS for TXS 0506+056.** Nightly  $\gamma$ -ray flux upper limits at 95% confidence level from VERITAS above an energy threshold of 175 GeV, assuming an  $E^{-3.9}$  energy spectrum.

MJD [days]	Time window (half width) [days]	Flux $> 175$ GeV [ph cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$ ]
57685.4392	$\pm 0.0104$	$< 6.8 \times 10^{-12}$
57686.4500	$\pm 0.0200$	$< 5.7 \times 10^{-12}$
57786.1544	$\pm 0.0142$	$< 1.1 \times 10^{-11}$
58019.3971	$\pm 0.0124$	$< 2.1 \times 10^{-10}$
58024.4380	$\pm 0.0653$	$< 1.4 \times 10^{-11}$
58025.3932	$\pm 0.0219$	$< 5.2 \times 10^{-11}$
58026.4399	$\pm 0.0211$	$< 1.1 \times 10^{-11}$

**Table S7: VERITAS differential  $\gamma$ -ray flux upper limits for TXS 0506+056.** Differential  $\gamma$ -ray flux upper limits ( $f_\gamma$ ) derived from VERITAS observations of the TXS 0506+056 blazar position.  $E_{\min}$  and  $E_{\max}$  define the energy range over which the differential flux upper limit is derived and are based on observations obtained within 2 weeks of the neutrino alert.

$E_{\min}$ [TeV]	$E_{\max}$ [TeV]	$f_\gamma$ [cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$ TeV $^{-1}$ ]
0.141	0.316	$< 5.4 \times 10^{-11}$
0.316	0.708	$< 6.4 \times 10^{-12}$
0.708	1.585	$< 5.3 \times 10^{-13}$
1.585	3.548	$< 8.0 \times 10^{-14}$

**HAWC** The High-Altitude Water Cherenkov (HAWC)  $\gamma$ -ray observatory (36) has a very wide field of view ( $\sim 2$  sr) and operates with  $>95\%$  uptime, enabling it to survey 2/3 of the sky above  $\sim 1$  TeV. The IceCube-170922A location was not in the field of view of HAWC at the time of the event. Three time periods were searched for VHE  $\gamma$ -rays with no evidence for a source in any of the studies. For all these searches, the 95% C.L. upper limits on the flux above 1 TeV assume a spectral index of  $-3.9$ . The 1 TeV threshold for flux limits was chosen so that the limit depends very weakly on the spectral index.

First, a time integrated search at the location of TXS 0506+056 was made using archival data from 26 November 2014 to 27 August 2017. The upper limit on the flux is  $1.6 \times 10^{-13}$  cm $^{-2}$  s $^{-1}$ . Second, the transits of TXS 0506+056, in HAWC, right before and right after the time stamp

Table S8: Neutrino follow-up observations performed by VERITAS.

IceCube Alert ID	UTC Date	Obs delay [hr]	Exposure [hr]	VERITAS publication
IceCube-160427A	27 April 2016	0.05	3.15	(98)
IceCube-161103A	3 November 2016	0.06	1.5	-
IceCube-170321A	21 March 2017	19.3	0.5	-
IceCube-170922A	22 September 2017	12.2	5.5	(59)

of IceCube-170922A (22 September 2017, from 08:37:15 to 14:29:45 UTC and 23 September 2017, from 08:33:19 to 14:25:49 UTC) were used. The upper limit on the flux is  $3.6 \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . Finally, data from 9 September 2017 09:28:22 to 19 September 2017 14:41:33 UTC and from 21 September 2017 08:41:11 to 6 October 2017 13:34:43 UTC was used (the time gap was due to a power outage after Mexico’s earthquake on 19 September 2017), roughly coinciding with the *Fermi*-LAT reported flare (16), results in an upper limit of the flux of  $2.1 \times 10^{-12} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . Quasi-differential upper limits on  $E^2 dN/dE$  using HAWC data are presented in Figure 4 using the method described in (99).

## Radio, optical and X-ray observations

**VLA** The Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array (VLA) (37) was used to obtain radio frequency observations of the blazar TXS 0506+056, following its identification as the potential astrophysical origin of IceCube-170922A (18). The VLA observations were taken over six epochs between 5 October 2017 and 21 November 2017, in *S* (2 – 4 GHz), *C* (4 – 8 GHz) and *X* (8 – 12 GHz) bands. The array was split into 3 sub-arrays, with 8 antennas observing at *C* band, 9 antennas at *X* band, and 10 antennas observing at *S* band, to simultaneously sample the source flux density across the three receiver sets. The antennas for each sub-array were selected so that all sub-arrays had similar beam patterns. A total of 10.8 minutes on target were acquired in each band, per epoch, cycling continuously between the calibrator (1 min) and target (5.4 min). All observations were made with the 8-bit samplers, using 2 base-bands with 8 spectral windows of 64 2 MHz channels each, giving a total bandwidth of 1.024 GHz per base-band. The flagging, calibration, and imaging were carried out within the Common Astronomy Software Application package (CASA, v5.1.1; (100)) using standard procedures.

For all sub-arrays, 3C 138 (QSO J0521+166) was applied as the flux calibrator, and QSO J0502+0609 as the phase calibrator. When imaging, a natural weighting scheme was used to maximize sensitivity. A phase-only self-calibration was performed on the data (with 10 second solution intervals) to correct for phase de-correlation of the unresolved emission. No self-calibration was performed when the preliminary flux densities of the first 4 epochs were reported in (38). As expected, phase de-correlation was strongest at higher frequencies, and on 6 October 2017, that was measured to have significantly stronger tropospheric contribution to the interferometric phase.

TXS 0506+056 was detected significantly in all bands/epochs. Observation times and flux densities for TXS 0506+056 are shown in Table S9, where a point source was fitted in the image plane (with the CASA imfit task) to obtain each of these measurements. The reported uncertainties on the flux density do not include the  $\sim 5\%$  systematic uncertainty on the absolute flux scale calibration. This uncertainty should be included when comparing these flux density measurements to those with other facilities. Flux densities and the measured  $\nu^{-0.2}$  spectra were relatively constant from 5 - 12 October 2017 (epochs 1–4). The source brightened slightly above 4 GHz on 24 October 2017. The final data (on 21 November 2017) indicate a ( $\sim 20\%$ ) brighter source at frequencies below 6 GHz, and spectral steepening at higher frequencies ( $\nu^{-0.2}$  at lower frequencies and  $\nu^{-0.1}$  at higher frequencies). This peak may be due to synchrotron self-absorption. An injection of energy (*e.g.*, jet ejecta) that moves downstream and reaches the radio photosphere for  $\nu \sim 10$  GHz by 21 November 2017, could provide a spectral turnover.

**ASAS-SN** The All-Sky Automated Survey for Supernovae (ASAS-SN) consists of two units — one at Haleakala, Hawaii and one at Cerro Tololo in Chile — each comprising four robotic 14 cm telescopes. ASAS-SN has been monitoring the visible sky to  $\sim 17$  mag in the  $V$  band on a 2–3 day cadence (101).

An initially extracted light curve spanning from August 2013 to October 2017 from the ASAS-SN Sky Patrol (40) interface indicated that TXS 0506+056 had brightened by  $\Delta V \sim 0.5$  mag over the 50 days prior to the neutrino event (54). While the source shows significant variability, the recent data indicate this is the brightest this object has been in several years. This source was observed at higher cadence compared to the regular survey for a few days after the neutrino detection thanks to automated ASAS-SN target-of-opportunity observations triggered by the public IceCube alerts.

The ASAS-SN  $V$  band light curve is shown in Figure 3 and is extracted using aperture photometry on the difference images and combining the multiple images obtained at each epoch. Proximity to the Sun prevented observations from April to July 2017. The source had a relatively steady flux of  $V \sim 14.5$  mag in the previous observing season (August 2016 to April 2017) and brightened from a minimum of  $V \simeq 15.0$  mag in the season before that (July 2015 to March 2016). ASAS-SN images have  $\sim 15''$  FWHM PSF. There is a modest dilution of the variability amplitude through the contributions of a nearby source to the photometry aperture.

**Kanata/HONIR** TXS 0506+056 was monitored in the imaging mode with the Hiroshima Optical and Near-InfraRed camera (HONIR) (42) installed at the Cassegrain focus of the 1.5-m Kanata telescope at the Higashi-Hiroshima Observatory, starting  $\sim 20$  hours after the IceCube-170922A alert. Polarimetric observation with HONIR was also performed since 30 September 2017, revealing that TXS 0506+056 was highly polarized ( $\sim 7\%$  in  $R$  band). The magnitude was measured by relative photometry with respect to the nearby reference stars listed in the AAVSO Photometric All-Sky Survey (102). For polarimetry of TXS 0506+056, strongly-polarized standard stars (BD +64 106 and BD +59 389; (103)), and several unpolarized standard stars, were

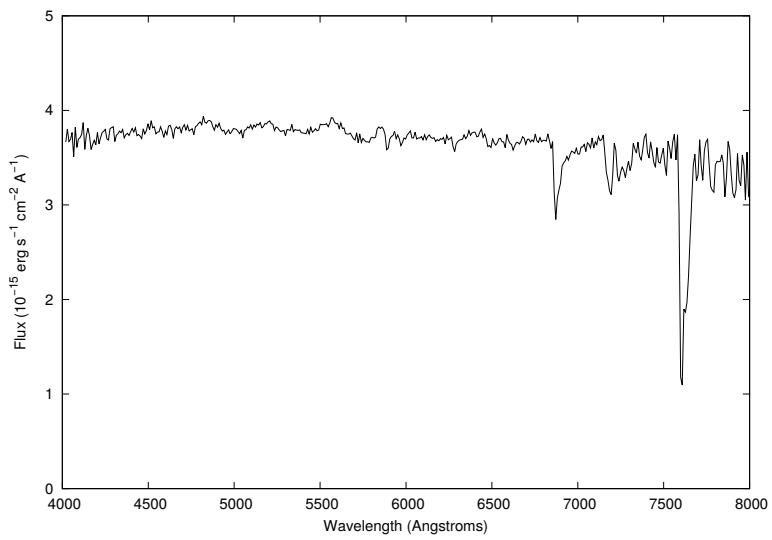
observed for calibration. The instrumental polarization for HONIR was confirmed to be negligibly small ( $\lesssim 0.1\%$ ), and no correction was applied. The foreground Galactic extinction ( $E_{B-V} = 0.096$ , (104)) indicates that the interstellar polarization is  $p_R \leq 0.9\%$  (105), suggesting the observed large polarization is predominantly intrinsic to the blazar. Possible blazar candidates were selected from flat spectrum radio sources of  $\alpha > -0.5$  (where  $\alpha$  is a spectral index defined as  $F_\nu \propto \nu^\alpha$ ) from 0.15 GHz TGSS (106) and 1.4 GHz NVSS (107) catalogs. Four flat-radio-spectrum objects (including TXS 0506+056) found within the IceCube-170922A error region were examined. Visual inspection of differenced images taken on 23 September 2017 and 24 September 2017 showed a clear fading of blazar TXS 0506+056 (52).

**Kiso/KWFC** Monitoring observations of TXS 0506+056 in optical  $g$ ,  $r$ , and  $i$  bands commenced after the neutrino alert with the Kiso Wide Field Camera (43) attached to the 1.05 m Kiso Schmidt telescope. The point spread function sizes are 4-6 arcsec FWHM, well separated from a nearby bright star in the KWFC images. The data were reduced in the same manner as that for a previous supernova survey (108). Compared with previous observations (109), the flux of the object increased by approximately 1.0 mag and remained in a bright phase until at least November 2017.

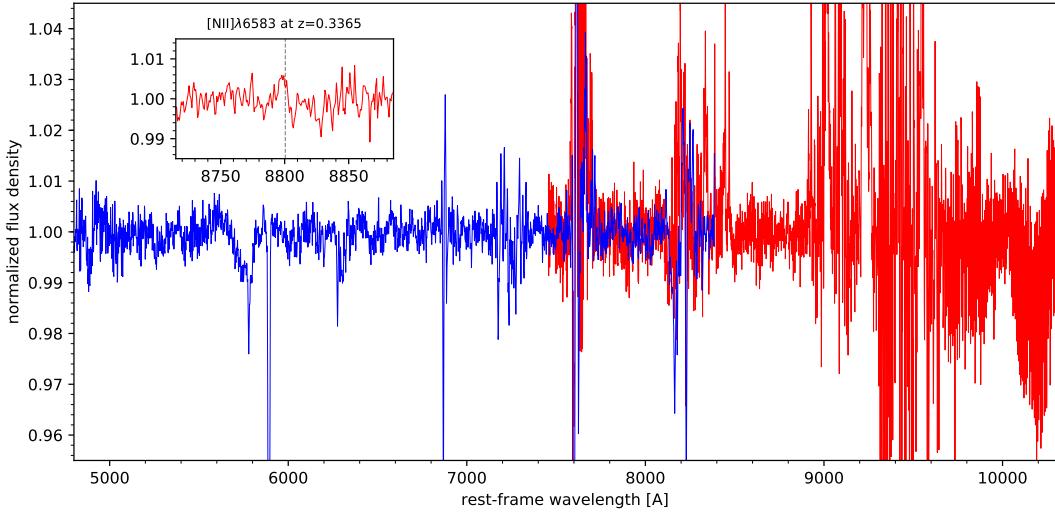
**Liverpool Telescope** Low resolution (resolving power  $\sim 350$ ,  $4000 - 8000 \text{ \AA}$ ) optical spectra of TXS 0506+056 were obtained with the SPRAT spectrograph of the 2.0 m Liverpool Telescope (41) on 29 September 2017 02:31 UTC and 30 September 2017 02:15 UTC. The spectra, shown in Figure S4, showed no sign of variation and are typical of a BL Lac object, showing a smooth continuum. The only feature seen is attributable to Galactic interstellar Na I absorption. No redshift measurement is possible from the optical spectra. Both spectra have a flat spectral energy distribution with  $F_\lambda \sim 4 \times 10^{-15} \text{ ergs s}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2} \text{\AA}^{-1}$ , which is bluer than the (similarly featureless) spectrum presented in (110), indicating a likely “bluer-when-brighter” behavior.

**Subaru/FOCAS** Low resolution (resolving power  $\sim 400$  in  $4700-8200 \text{ \AA}$  and  $\sim 1200$  in  $7500-10500 \text{ \AA}$ ) optical spectra were obtained with the Faint Object Camera and Spectrograph (45) on the 8.2-m Subaru telescope on 30 September 2017 and 1 October 2017, respectively, and are shown in Figure S5. The data was reduced with IRAF software in the standard manner (111). The signal-to-noise ratios are roughly 350 per pixel. The spectra are almost featureless smooth continua over the entire wavelength range except for a weak emission line is marginally detected around 8,800A, corresponding [NII] detected in (28).

**Swift and NuSTAR** *Swift* carried out rapid-response follow-up observations of IceCube-170922A as a mosaic of 19 pointings beginning 3.25 hours after the neutrino detection, lasting 22.5 hours, and accumulating approximately 800 s exposure per pointing. The tiled *Swift* XRT observations together cover a roughly circular region centered on RA, Dec (J2000) = (77.2866 deg,



**Figure S4: Liverpool Telescope measured spectrum of TXS 0506+056.** Spectrum of TXS 0506+056 obtained with the low resolution ( $R \approx 350$ ) spectrograph SPRAT on the Liverpool Telescope on 29 September 2017. The spectrum shows a smooth continuum typical of a BL Lac object, with absorption features that are telluric or attributable to Galactic interstellar Na I absorption.



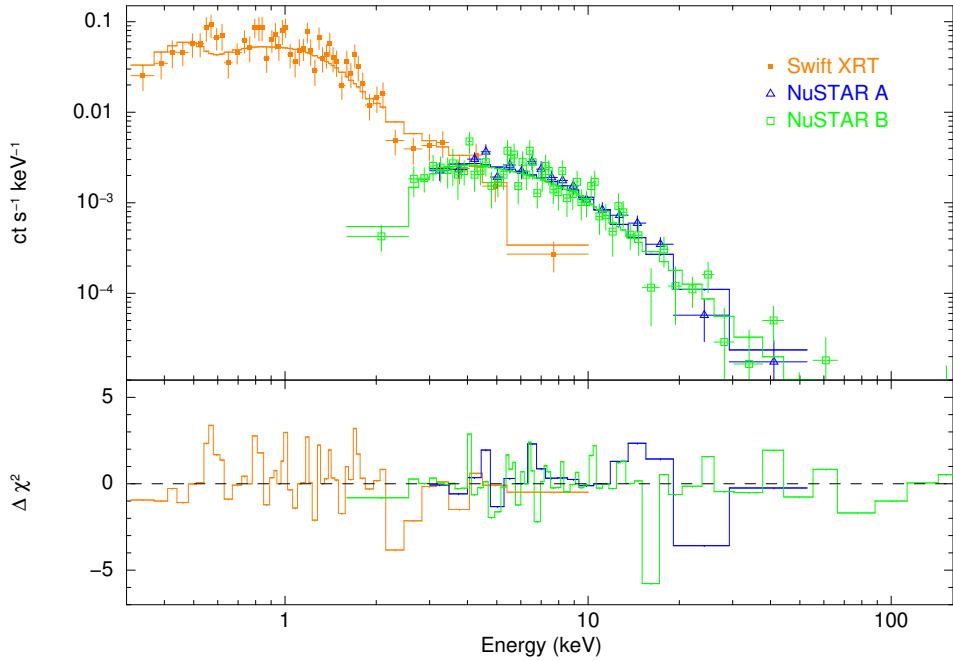
**Figure S5: Subaru/FOCAS spectra of TXS 0506+056.** Normalized spectra taken with FOCAS on the 8.2-m Subaru telescope on 30 September 2017 (blue) and 1 October 2017 (red), in two different settings of the grism and order-sort filters. Note that some atmospheric absorption effects remain. The [NII] line detected by Paiano et al. (28) is marginally detected as shown in the inset figure.

+5.7537 deg), with radius of approximately 0.8 deg and sky area 2.1 deg<sup>2</sup>. XRT data was analyzed automatically as data was received at the University of Leicester, via the reduction routines described in (112, 113). Nine sources were detected in the covered region down to a typical achieved depth of  $3.8 \times 10^{-13}$  erg cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> (0.3 keV – 10.0 keV). All of the detected sources were identified as counterparts to known and catalogued stars, X-ray sources, or radio sources (114). Source 2 from these observations, located 0.077 deg from the center of the neutrino localization, was identified as the likely X-ray counterpart to TXS 0506+056.

Following the *Fermi*-LAT report that TXS 0506+056 was in an enhanced GeV-flaring state, a *Swift* monitoring campaign was initiated (55) and a single *NuSTAR* observation (56) was requested. *Swift* monitoring observations began on 27 September 2017 with 12 epochs (and 24.7 ks total exposure time) completed by 23 October 2017 (Table S10). *NuSTAR* observations over 02:23 to 17:48 UTC on 29 September 2017 yielded 23.9 ks (24.5 ks) exposure in the A (B) units, respectively, after processing with *NuSTAR* standard software tools (115) (SAAMODE=strict). With count rates of 21.3 ct ks<sup>-1</sup> (20.8 ct ks<sup>-1</sup>) in the A (B) units, TXS 0506+056 is well detected in these data.

For joint analysis purposes, the *Swift* XRT data from the 27 September 2017 and 30 September 2017 monitoring observations were selected; processing of these data occurred with the online tools of the UK *Swift* Science Data Centre (112), yielding a 6.9 ks exposure, with the source exhibiting a count rate of 88 ct ks<sup>-1</sup>.

The resulting TXS 0506+056 spectrum over 0.3 keV – 100 keV is adequately fit with a dou-



**Figure S6: *Swift*-XRT and *NuSTAR* observations of TXS 0506+056.** The spectrum of TXS 0506+056 from a joint fit to Swift-XRT data with the *NuSTAR* spectrum of TXS 0506+056. *Swift*-XRT data are shown with orange markers and the two *NuSTAR* units are shown with blue and green markers.

ble power-law spectral model with the galactic hydrogen column density( $N_{\text{H}}$ ) fixed at the expected Galactic value,  $N_{\text{H}} = 1.11 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$  (Fig. S6).

The soft power-law component has the photon index  $\Gamma_s = -2.78 \pm 0.30$  and yields a flux of  $(1.78 \pm 0.41) \times 10^{-12} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  over 0.3 keV – 10 keV, while the hard power-law component has the photon index  $\Gamma_h = -1.43 \pm 0.25$  and yields a flux of  $(4.7 \pm 2.4) \times 10^{-12} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  over 3 keV – 100 keV. The hard power-law component that dominates over the *NuSTAR* bandpass extrapolates to  $\nu F_{\nu} = 5.8 \times 10^{-11} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at  $E\gamma = 20 \text{ MeV}$ , consistent with the flux observed over the *Fermi*-LAT bandpass (0.1 GeV – 100 GeV) at that epoch.

To characterize the X-ray flux and spectral variability of TXS 0506+056, we performed a power-law fit to each individual *Swift* XRT observation (Table S10), as well as to the summed spectrum from all listed epochs. The 14 October 2017 observation is excluded from the spectral analysis due to low exposure time. The summed spectrum (24.7 ks total exposure) is adequately fitted with a single power-law spectral model having  $N_{\text{H}} = 1.11 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ , resulting in a photon index  $\Gamma = -2.46 \pm 0.06$  and mean flux of  $3.06 \times 10^{-12} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$  (0.3 keV – 10.0 keV). This source has been observed on multiple previous occasions with the *Swift* XRT (113). In past observations, TXS 0506+056 exhibits a typical count rate of  $40 \text{ ct ks}^{-1}$ , with one observation at approximately  $90 \text{ ct ks}^{-1}$ . The source was therefore in an active X-ray flaring state by

comparison to historical X-ray measurements (cf. Figure 3).

Individual monitoring observations show evidence of spectral variability; photon indices and X-ray flux measurements for each epoch are provided in Table S10, and the variations in photon index are shown in Figure 3. The  $\chi^2$  statistic for photon index variations (compared to a fixed  $\Gamma = -2.46$  from the summed spectrum) is 33.91 for 11 degrees of freedom ( $p = 3.7 \times 10^{-4}$ ).

*INTEGRAL* The *INTEGRAL* observatory (51) has surveyed the sky in hard X-rays and soft  $\gamma$ -rays at energies above 20 keV since October 2002. At the time of the IceCube-170922A detection, *INTEGRAL* was performing a slew between two pointings, and the sensitivity to emission from the IceCube neutrino direction depends on time. Combining data from the Spectrometer on *INTEGRAL* - Anti-Coincidence Shield (SPI-ACS) and Imager on Board the *INTEGRAL* Satellite - Veto (IBIS/Veto) instruments, we set a limit on the 8-second peak flux at any time within  $\pm 30$  minutes from the time of the alert at a level of  $10^{-7}$  erg cm $^{-2}$  s $^{-1}$ , assuming a power-law spectrum with a slope of -2 (57).

The location of IceCube-170922A was serendipitously in the field of view of *INTEGRAL* from 30 September 2017, 05:36:04 UTC (MJD 58026.23) to 24 October 2017, 16:20:25 UTC (MJD 58050.68). Due to the large off-axis angle, the resulting effective exposure was only 32 ks. In the combined mosaicked images of *INTEGRAL* Soft Gamma-Ray Imager data we did not detect the source, and set an upper limit ( $3\sigma$  C.L.) on the average flux from the position of TXS 0506+056 of  $7.1 \times 10^{-11}$  erg cm $^{-2}$  s $^{-1}$  in the 20 keV – 80 keV energy range and  $9.8 \times 10^{-11}$  erg cm $^{-2}$  s $^{-1}$  in the 80 keV – 250 keV energy range.

## Neutrino-blazar coincidence analysis

In order to calculate the chance probability of a coincidence between a neutrino alert, such as IceCube-170922A, and a flaring blazar, several hypothesis tests have been performed covering a range of assumptions on the spatial and temporal signal distribution and neutrino emission scenarios. For each hypothesis we create a test statistic (TS) that we use in a likelihood ratio test to compare the signal hypothesis to the null hypothesis. In each case our null hypothesis assumes no correlation between a cataloged  $\gamma$ -ray source and high-energy neutrino events (including atmospheric neutrinos and misidentified muons, and the astrophysical neutrinos). The signal hypothesis assumes that neutrino events originate from cataloged *Fermi*-LAT blazars, given a particular model for the correlation between the neutrino and  $\gamma$ -ray emission.

As a common framework for all the analyses, we start with an unbinned likelihood function defined in a similar way to previous IceCube point source analyses (3, 4):

$$\mathcal{L} = \prod_i^N \left( \frac{n_s}{N} \mathcal{S} + \left(1 - \frac{n_s}{N}\right) \mathcal{B} \right), \quad (\text{S1})$$

with signal and background probability density functions (PDFs) denoted as  $\mathcal{S}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$ , respectively.  $N$  is the total number of events and  $n_s$  the number of signal events. Additionally, there

is one constrained nuisance parameter included in the likelihood for the  $\gamma$ -ray energy flux (or flux ratio) normalization of each source using the method from (116), treating the flux error as a normal distribution. Including the nuisance factor does not have a significant influence on the results. In the simple case considered here, only a single event enters the analysis, i.e.  $N = 1$ .

We define a test statistic of the form

$$TS = 2 \log \frac{\mathcal{L}(n_s = 1)}{\mathcal{L}(n_s = 0)} = 2 \log \frac{\mathcal{S}}{\mathcal{B}}. \quad (\text{S2})$$

In this definition the likelihood ratio test reduces to a test between two fixed alternate hypotheses and TS can take negative values for background-like events. The signal PDF consists of three independent parts, a spatial factor, a flux weight factor, and a factor for the detector acceptance:

$$\mathcal{S}(\vec{x}, t) = \sum_s \frac{1}{2\pi\sigma^2} e^{-|\vec{x}_s - \vec{x}|^2/(2\sigma^2)} w_s(t) w_{\text{acc}}(\theta_s), \quad (\text{S3})$$

where the sum runs over all 2257 extragalactic *Fermi*-LAT sources,  $s$ . Their light curves were constructed as described above for the analysis of the *Fermi*-LAT light curves for TXS 0506+056, where 28-day wide bins are used to characterize the  $\gamma$ -ray activity at time  $t$ . The term  $w_{\text{acc}}$  is the IceCube acceptance as a function of zenith angle (normalized over all zenith angles,  $\theta_s$ ), assuming a neutrino signal spectral index  $\gamma = -2.13$ . This factor accounts for the zenith-dependent sensitivity of the IceCube detector. The function  $w_s(t)$  derived from the *Fermi*-LAT light curve, describes the model-dependent relation between the  $\gamma$ -ray emission and the expected neutrino flux from source  $s$  as a function of time.

The leading factor inside the summation is the spatial weight accounting for the distance of a source at position,  $\vec{x}_s$ , to the reconstructed neutrino direction,  $\vec{x}$ , in terms of the reconstruction uncertainty  $\sigma$  of the neutrino direction, which is found on a per-event basis (3). The uncertainty of the  $\gamma$ -ray source position is negligible compared to the neutrino angular uncertainty. Sources at large angular distances from the neutrino are assigned a negligible weight by the spatial factor, which models the IceCube point-spread function (PSF). The “signalness” of a neutrino event, as mentioned in the main text, is a quantity constructed by the realtime system from the energy and zenith angle estimates, to rapidly allow an assessment of whether an event is a worthy target of opportunity. It does not enter into the likelihood.

The background PDF is described by the zenith acceptance,  $\mathcal{P}_{BG}(\sin \theta)$ , which is a probability density function describing the zenith distribution of the alert events that are due to background.

$$\mathcal{B}(\vec{x}) = \frac{\mathcal{P}_{BG}(\sin \theta)}{2\pi}, \quad (\text{S4})$$

where  $\theta$  is the zenith angle of the reconstructed neutrino direction  $\vec{x}$ . To construct a background TS distribution we randomly draw neutrino events from an IceCube all-sky Monte Carlo sample containing muon-neutrinos and misidentified muons from air-showers and astrophysical neutrinos with energies according to the spectral shape presented in (2).

The final p-value is then determined by calculating the fraction of background TS values larger than the measured one for IceCube-170922A. Note that the overall normalization of  $\mathcal{S}$  and  $\mathcal{B}$  does not influence the final p-value, but only shifts the TS distribution.

As the production mechanisms of neutrinos and  $\gamma$ -rays in astrophysical environments are poorly understood, three models connecting the  $\gamma$ -ray and the neutrino flux are considered for  $w_s(t)$ . All models are based on the assumption that at least part of the  $\gamma$ -ray emission is of hadronic origin. In all cases the extragalactic sources from the *Fermi*-LAT catalog are used.

**Model 1:** The neutrino energy flux is proportional to the  $\gamma$ -ray energy flux of the source in the time bin where the neutrino arrives (4). This is motivated by the fact that a similar amount of energy is expected to be channeled into the neutrino and  $\gamma$ -ray emission, if pion decays from pp or  $p\gamma$  interactions dominate at high energies. Alternatively, it can be relevant even if emission from electrons dominate, as long as protons and electrons are accelerated at a fixed power ratio.

In this case the weight is equal to the  $\gamma$ -ray energy flux defined as:

$$w_s(t) = \phi_E(t) = \int_{1 \text{ GeV}}^{100 \text{ GeV}} E_\gamma \frac{d\phi_\gamma(t)}{dE_\gamma} dE_\gamma, \quad (\text{S5})$$

where  $\phi_\gamma(t)$  is the photon flux from the  $\gamma$ -ray light curves, at time  $t$ . The resulting pre-trial p-value is  $2.1 \cdot 10^{-5}$ , corresponding to a Gaussian equivalent one-sided probability of  $4.1\sigma$ .

**Model 2:** The neutrino production and detection probability depend only on the relative flux change of the  $\gamma$ -ray source emission around the neutrino event time,  $t$ . This prevents missing a correlation with  $\gamma$ -dim sources that may be much brighter in neutrinos than  $\gamma$ -rays, at the cost of some sensitivity to bright sources.

Here,

$$w_s(t) = \phi_\gamma(t)/\langle \phi_\gamma \rangle, \quad (\text{S6})$$

where  $\langle \phi_\gamma \rangle$  is the time averaged  $\gamma$ -ray flux from the source. The resulting pre-trial p-value is  $2.5 \cdot 10^{-5}$  ( $4.1\sigma$ ).

**Model 3:** The neutrino energy flux is proportional to the  $\gamma$ -ray energy flux predicted in the very-high-energy (VHE)  $\gamma$ -ray regime (100 GeV – 1 TeV). This approach is triggered by the detection of VHE  $\gamma$ -ray emission by MAGIC.

If a similar amount of energy is channeled into neutrinos and  $\gamma$ -rays in the sources (as in Model 1) the energy flux is expected to be correlated with the neutrino energy flux. The VHE  $\gamma$ -ray emission is closer in energy to the observed neutrino and might therefore be a better indicator for high-energy particle acceleration.

As no unbiased survey of the sky exists at energies above 100 GeV, the 2257 extragalactic *Fermi*-LAT sources were considered. The VHE spectral functional form was obtained

through extrapolations of the spectrum measured by *Fermi*-LAT in the energy range from 1 GeV – 100 GeV over the entire 9.5-year *Fermi*-LAT exposure. The VHE spectral normalization was scaled to match each monthly bin of the *Fermi*-LAT light-curve. Since any additional softening of the spectrum in the VHE energy band due to limitations in the acceleration capabilities of the source, limitations in the radiative efficiency, absorption within the source or in the extragalactic background light (EBL) would yield a lower flux, these extrapolations represent a conservative assumption.

The pre-trial p-value in this case is  $4.9 \cdot 10^{-5}$  ( $3.9\sigma$ ). Including absorption by the extragalactic background light for the extrapolations does not change the p-value significantly. Extrapolations to VHE energies are potentially uncertain for weaker, hard-spectrum sources with a spectral shape not well constrained in the high-energy band. For the sources within the Fermi 3FHL catalog, the results obtained with the best fit from 9.5 years of Fermi-LAT data (*e.g.* power-law or log-parabola or power-law with exponential cutoff) were compared to extrapolations based on the power-law fit. Minimal impact was found on the weights in the energy band considered.

A test was applied to assess the impact of the flux weight on the chance coincidence probability, and to quantify the probability of a simple spatial coincidence between a neutrino alert and a cataloged source. To achieve that, the flux weight was set to one for all cataloged sources ( $w_s(t) = 1$ ). This choice implies that the intensities of the neutrino and  $\gamma$ -ray emission are not correlated for LAT catalog sources. In this case, the pre-trial p-value is reduced to 0.0017 ( $2.9\sigma$ ). Another set of tests was applied to check the impact of the spatial factor in the likelihood description above, given that IceCube-170922A was found very close to the source (at a distance of 0.1 deg, much smaller than the 90% angular error typical for IceCube through-going track events). The Gaussian PSF factor is replaced by 1 in this test for neutrino events within 0.5 deg of the source and by 0 otherwise. If the full PSF information is not used, the significance values drop by  $0.4\sigma - 0.5\sigma$  for the three models described above.

Prior to 22 September 2017, IceCube had publicly issued 9 alerts. In addition 41 archival events (before April 2016) were inspected, which would have triggered alerts if the realtime system had been operational. Since no *Fermi*-LAT source comparable in energy flux to TXS 0506+056 was found within the 90% error region of any of the potential previous alerts, the global p-value, corrected for all trials, can be obtained from the pre-trial local p-value  $p_{\text{global}} = 1 - (1 - p_{\text{local}})^N$ , where  $N = 51$  is the number of trials. For  $p_{\text{local}} \ll 1$  this simplifies to  $p_{\text{global}} \approx p_{\text{local}}N$ . For Model 1 and 2, the trial factor correction yields a global p-value of  $3.0\sigma$ . Five of the 10 IceCube alerts were followed-up by VHE observations. With the exception of IceCube-170922A, no alert has been observed by an IACT more than 3.2 hours. Considering 5 alerts only, the global p-value for Model 3 based on the formula above becomes  $3.5\sigma$ . For 10 (51) alerts the corresponding p-values are  $3.3\sigma$  ( $2.8\sigma$ ). Since IACTs do not follow up all IceCube alerts, it is not clear if these values are relevant in this case.

**Correlation analysis sensitivity** To demonstrate that the test described above is sensitive to our signal hypothesis, an ensemble of simulated IceCube observations was generated assuming a proportionality between the instantaneous  $\gamma$ -ray and neutrino emission, corresponding to Model 1 above.

In these simulations, the signal normalization is set such that the expected number of IceCube real-time alerts originating from cataloged extragalactic *Fermi*-LAT sources is equal to 1. Here we have assumed that the purity of the IceCube real-time stream is  $\sim 40\%$  and that blazars produce  $\sim 5\%$  of the diffuse neutrino flux, which is consistent with the current upper limits in (4). With a total of 51 alerts, we expect roughly one coincidence. In each realization of these signal simulations, one IceCube event is injected on a cataloged extragalactic *Fermi*-LAT source. The probability to select each individual source is set proportional to its energy flux.

For each injected IceCube event, we calculate the TS as described above using the observed  $\gamma$ -ray light curves.

The resulting signal and background TS distributions are compared in Figure S7. Defining sensitivity as the fraction of the signal realizations correctly identified as such, the figure shows that for a reasonable cut at e.g.  $TS = 9$ , a sensitivity  $> 50\%$  is obtained for a p-value less than 1%. The pre-trial p-value shown for IceCube-170922A is  $2.1 \cdot 10^{-5}$ , corresponding to Model 1. This test has been applied for the assumption of one signal event and can therefore be directly compared with the pre-trial p-values of the energy flux weighting scenario described above.

Furthermore the energy flux distribution of  $\gamma$ -ray sources with simulated neutrino coincidences was inspected assuming that all sources produce neutrinos proportional to their  $\gamma$ -ray energy flux. It is found that 14% of all sources have an equal to or larger  $\gamma$ -ray energy flux than TXS 0506+056 during the time of IceCube-170922A (see Fig. S7). This shows that if the neutrino flux is in fact highly correlated with the  $\gamma$ -ray flux it is not surprising that we detect a neutrino in coincidence with this particular source and flaring incident. This test neglects dim  $\gamma$ -ray sources below the detection threshold of the *Fermi*-LAT, which would also contribute to the neutrino flux.

**Previous high-energy IceCube events** Prior to IceCube-170922A, the IceCube real-time system sent 9 public high-energy neutrino alerts. IceCube data recorded prior to the start of the real-time system in April 2016, starting from 2010, has been inspected for events that would have passed the selection criteria of the real-time stream. An additional 41 events were identified. The 90% error contours of all 51 events were searched for  $\gamma$ -ray sources in spatial coincidence. The angular resolution for those events varies strongly with the topology and energy of the event. Only events with an angular uncertainty of less than  $5 \text{ deg}^2$  are considered, excluding 4 events from the pre-alert time period. Events with larger uncertainty would get a small spatial weight assigned in the likelihood analysis and would not yield a significant p-value. One neutrino (9 December 2014) is found with a 90% location uncertainty region of  $1.76 \text{ deg}^2$  in spatial coincidence with the  $\gamma$ -ray source 3FGL J1040.4+0615. The best-fitting neutrino position is  $0.27 \text{ deg}$  from the position of the  $\gamma$ -ray source. In the monthly time bin around the neutrino arrival time, the source was detected with an energy flux of  $1.3 \times 10^{-11} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$

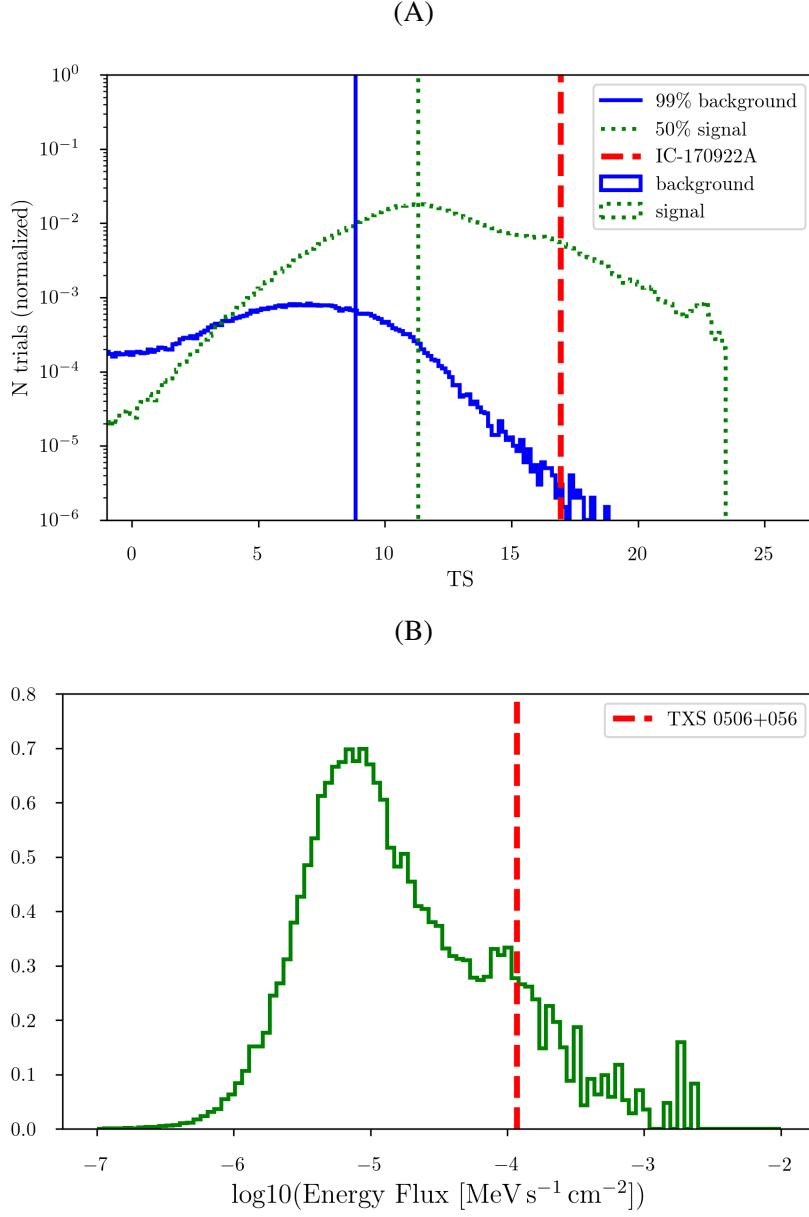
between 1 GeV and 100 GeV, more than an order of magnitude lower than the energy flux at TXS 0506+056 during the time of IceCube-170922A of  $1.9 \times 10^{-10}$  erg cm $^{-2}$  s $^{-1}$ , and about a factor of 2 below the brightest emission period ( $2.7 \times 10^{-11}$  erg cm $^{-2}$  s $^{-1}$ ) observed for this particular source. Therefore, this event would have produced substantially lower test statistic values in the statistical tests for chance coincidence described above, where a correlation between the gamma-ray and neutrino emission is assumed.

Table S9: **VLA Radio Frequency Flux Densities of TXS 0506+056.** A  $\sim 5\%$  systematic uncertainty in the absolute flux scale should be included when comparing these to flux densities measured with other facilities.

Epoch	MJD	Sub-array Receiver Band	Frequency	Flux Density
			(GHz)	mJy
1	$58031.6429 \pm 0.0104$	S	2.50	$519.7 \pm 1.3$
		S	3.50	$540.4 \pm 0.9$
		C	5.25	$565.3 \pm 1.0$
		C	7.45	$624.9 \pm 1.1$
		X	9.00	$663.2 \pm 1.5$
		X	11.00	$695.9 \pm 1.4$
2	$58032.3724 \pm 0.0104$	S	2.50	$522.8 \pm 0.8$
		S	3.50	$543.6 \pm 0.5$
		C	5.25	$569.8 \pm 1.0$
		C	7.45	$640.2 \pm 1.3$
		X	9.00	$662.8 \pm 3.5$
		X	11.00	$725.7 \pm 6.1$
3	$58035.5662 \pm 0.0104$	S	2.50	$507.5 \pm 0.9$
		S	3.50	$529.4 \pm 0.6$
		C	5.25	$563.3 \pm 1.1$
		C	7.45	$625.9 \pm 1.5$
		X	9.00	$650.1 \pm 1.2$
		X	11.00	$670.9 \pm 1.1$
4	$58038.3585 \pm 0.0104$	S	2.50	$520.4 \pm 0.8$
		S	3.50	$535.0 \pm 0.6$
		C	5.25	$571.3 \pm 1.0$
		C	7.45	$631.9 \pm 1.0$
		X	9.00	$661.9 \pm 1.1$
		X	11.00	$722.8 \pm 1.1$
5	$58050.3048 \pm 0.0104$	S	2.50	$511.4 \pm 1.6$
		S	3.50	$549.7 \pm 0.8$
		C	5.25	$607.2 \pm 1.4$
		C	7.45	$699.4 \pm 1.6$
		X	9.00	$723.8 \pm 1.7$
		X	11.00	$753.0 \pm 1.6$
6	$58078.5534 \pm 0.0104$	S	2.50	$606.0 \pm 1.6$
		S	3.50	$658.4 \pm 1.3$
		C	5.25	$696.2 \pm 1.2$
		C	7.45	$669.3 \pm 1.5$
		X	9.00	$667.0 \pm 1.4$
		X	11.00	$646.2 \pm 1.0$

**Table S10: *Swift* XRT Monitoring Campaigns of TXS 0506+056.**  $R_X$  and  $F_{X,-12}$  indicate count rate and energy flux (0.3–10 keV), in units of ct ks $^{-1}$  and 10 $^{-12}$  erg cm $^{-2}$  s $^{-1}$ , respectively. Uncertainties are 90%-confidence regions. The \* indicates that UT end was during the following day. The energy flux reported here is not corrected for Galactic absorption.

Epoch	UT start	UT end	Exposure [ks]	$R_X$ [ct ks $^{-1}$ ]	Photon Index	$F_{X,-12}$ [10 $^{-12}$ erg cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$ ]
2017-09-23	00:09:16	22:24:03	0.8	65.8 ± 10.1	1.83 $^{+0.43}_{-0.42}$	2.33 $^{+1.07}_{-0.72}$
2017-09-27	18:51:08	22:04:26	4.9	121.2 ± 5.3	2.43 ± 0.12	3.51 $^{+0.32}_{-0.29}$
2017-09-30	04:27:57	06:24:00	2.0	66.2 ± 7.8	2.30 ± 0.33	1.55 $^{+0.43}_{-0.33}$
2017-10-02	15:04:30	15:41:32	2.0	117.3 ± 8.2	2.73 ± 0.20	2.92 $^{+0.40}_{-0.35}$
2017-10-03	13:38:57	18:41:00	1.1	182.4 ± 14.1	2.46 $^{+0.22}_{-0.21}$	4.96 $^{+0.80}_{-0.70}$
2017-10-04	16:42:57	18:37:00	1.2	186 ± 16.1	2.82 $^{+0.26}_{-0.25}$	4.41 $^{+0.74}_{-0.65}$
2017-10-05	16:32:57	21:32:00	2.3	255.1 ± 11.7	2.64 ± 0.13	6.47 $^{+0.57}_{-0.53}$
2017-10-06	13:16:57	05:48:00*	2.1	90.1 ± 7.1	2.36 ± 0.21	2.56 $^{+0.44}_{-0.37}$
2017-10-08	09:51:57	11:34:00	1.9	108.1 ± 8.1	2.53 ± 0.21	2.87 $^{+0.44}_{-0.38}$
2017-10-16	14:21:57	22:30:00	2.2	61.9 ± 5.8	2.0 ± 0.27	2.20 $^{+0.59}_{-0.44}$
2017-10-18	01:23:57	04:48:00	1.8	52.6 ± 6.0	2.10 ± 0.31	1.70 $^{+0.49}_{-0.37}$
2017-10-20	13:47:57	20:23:00*	2.3	49.6 ± 5.1	2.11 ± 0.28	1.61 $^{+0.41}_{-0.32}$



**Figure S7:  $\gamma$ -ray energy flux and neutrino correlation study sensitivity.** Panel A:  $TS$  distribution for background trials (blue) and signal trials (green dashed) assuming a linear correlation of  $\gamma$ -ray energy flux and neutrino flux. The solid blue line indicates the  $TS$  value below which 99% of the background trials lie. The green dotted line shows the median  $TS$  of the signal trial distribution. The red dashed line shows the measured  $TS$  value for IceCube-170922A. The x-axis is suppressed in order to show only the relevant tail of the background distribution. Panel B: distribution of  $\gamma$ -ray energy flux (for  $\gamma$ -ray energies  $> 1$  GeV) for found neutrino  $\gamma$ -ray correlations assuming that all sources produce neutrinos proportionately to their energy fluxes in the range 1 GeV – 100 GeV.

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