Swift Observation of GRB 080218A

H. Ziaeepour (UCL/MSSL), T. Sakamoto (GSFC/UMBC), E. Fenimore (LANL), P.A. Evans (U. Leicester), P. Ward (MSSL-UCL) for the Swift Team

1 Introduction

BAT triggered on GRB 080218A at 20:08:42.79 UT (Trigger 303609) (Ziaeepour, et al., GCN Circ. 7313). This was a 4.096 sec rate-trigger with significance of 9.84 on a faint intermediate length multi-peak burst with $T_{90} = 27.6 \pm 5.9$ sec (15–350 keV). Swift didn’t slew to this burst due to the Sun constraint, Sun distance = 33.9 deg, Sun angle = –1.6 h (East of Sun). Our best position is from the BAT ground-analyzed data: RA(J2000) = 355.941 deg (23h43m45.8s), Dec(J2000) = 12.159 deg (12d9′34″) with an error of 2.5 arcmin (radius, 90% confidence). No follow-up has been reported for this burst.

2 BAT Observation and Analysis

Using the data set from $T - 239$ to $T + 303$ sec, further analysis of BAT GRB 080218A has been performed by Swift team (Fenimore, et al., GCN Circ. 7317). The BAT ground-calculated position is RA(J2000) = 355.941 deg (23h43m45.8s), Dec(J2000) = 12.159 deg (12d9′34″) ± 2.5 arcmin, (radius, systematic and statistical, 90% containment). The partial coding was 21% (the offset angle was 47.39 deg).

The 1-sec binned mask-weighted light curves (Fig.1) show at least three peaks: one at $T - 12$ sec, the highest peak at $T + 0$ sec, and another peak at $T + 9$ sec. The presence of other faint peaks both before the trigger time and after the third peak mentioned above can not be ruled out. $T_{90}$ (15–350 keV) is 27.6 ± 5.9 sec (estimated error including systematics).

The time-averaged spectrum from $T - 12.8$ to $T + 18.6$ sec is best fitted by a simple power law model. This fit gives a photon index of $2.34 \pm 0.35$ ($\chi^2 = 51.20$ for 57 d.o.f.), indicating a relatively soft burst. For this model the total fluence in the 15–150 keV band is $(6.3 \pm 1.4) \times 10^{-7}$ ergs cm$^{-2}$ and the 1-sec peak flux measured from $T + 1.22$ sec in the 15–150 keV band is $1.4 \pm 0.4$ ph cm$^{-2}$ sec$^{-1}$. All the quoted errors are at the 90% confidence level.
Figure 1: BAT light curve. The mask-weighted light curve in the 4 individual plus total energy bands. The units are counts/sec/illuminated-detector and $T_0$ is 20:08:42.79 UT.