

Swift Observation of GRB 080916B

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1 Introduction

At 14:44:47 UT, the Swift Burst Alert Telescope (BAT) triggered and located GRB 080916B (trigger=324907)(Stratta, et al., *GCN Circ.* 8240). The BAT light curve showed a multi-peaked structure with a duration of about 50 sec. The peak count rate was ~ 750 counts/sec (15-350 keV), at ~ 0 sec after the trigger. Due to the Earth-limb observing constraint, Swift did not slew until $T + 18.9$ minutes and no XRT or UVOT data are available before this time. The X-ray afterglow was clearly detected while the optical counterpart was inferred by UVOT with a detection in the white filter only. No detection from ground-based facilities has been reported.

2 BAT Observation and Analysis

Using the data set from $T - 239$ to $T + 617$ sec the BAT ground-calculated position is RA, Dec = 163.632, 69.061 deg, which corresponds to RA(J2000) = $10^h 54^m 31.6^s$ and Dec(J2000) = $+69^d 03' 38.2''$ with an uncertainty of 2.1 arcmin (radius, sys+stat, 90% containment). The partial coding was 53%.

The mask-weighted light curve shows a weak FRED-like peak starting at $\sim T - 4$ sec, peaking at $\sim T + 3$ sec, and ending at $\sim T + 50$ sec. There is a possibility of very weak emission lasting out to at least $T + 350$ sec, at which time the spacecraft slewed away from the burst location (Figure 1). T_{90} (15-350 keV) is 32 ± 8 sec (estimated error including systematics).

The time-averaged spectrum from $T - 3.3$ to $T + 35.7$ sec is best fit by a simple power-law model. The power law index of the time-averaged spectrum is 1.49 ± 0.23 . The fluence in the 15-150 keV band is $(6.3 \pm 0.9) \times 10^{-7}$ erg cm^2 . The 1-sec peak photon flux measured from $T + 3.30$ sec in the 15-150 keV band is 0.6 ± 0.2 ph $\text{cm}^2 \text{sec}^{-1}$. All the quoted errors are at the 90% confidence level (Barthelmy et al., *GCN Circ.* 8250).

3 XRT Observations and Analysis

Using 1049 s of XRT Photon Counting mode data and 1 UVOT images for GRB 080916B, the astrometrically corrected X-ray position (using the XRT-UVOT alignment and matching UVOT field sources to the USNO-B1 catalogue) is: RA, Dec = 163.66512, +69.06545 which is equivalent to RA (J2000): $10^h 54^m 39.63^s$ and Dec (J2000): $+69^d 03' 55.6''$ with an uncertainty of 5.1 arcsec (radius, 90% confidence) (Goad et al., *GCN Circ.* 8247).

During the first two orbits of Swift XRT data of GRB 080916B, consisting of 2.8 ks of Photon Counting data collected starting from $T_0+1.4$ ks to $T_0+8.5$ ks, the source shows a fading behaviour from 0.08 counts/s to 0.02 counts/s. Assuming a power law model, $F(t) \propto t^{-\alpha}$, the best fit decay index is $\alpha = 1.0 \pm 0.2$ (Figure 2).

The 0.3-10 keV spectrum (2.8 ks of integration time) is consistent with an absorbed power law model. Fixing the column density to the Galactic value ($N_H = 1.8 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ from Kalberla et al. 2007) the best fit photon index is 2.0 ± 0.5 . The average 0.3-10.0 keV observed flux for this spectrum is $(1.0 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{-12}$ erg $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ which corresponds to an unabsorbed flux of 1.1×10^{-12} erg $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$.

The count to observed flux conversion factor is 6.6×10^{-11} erg cm $^{-2}$ count $^{-1}$ (Stratta et al., *GCN Circ.* 8260).

4 UVOT Observation and Analysis

The Swift/UVOT began settled observations of the field of GRB 080916B, 1359s after the BAT trigger (Stratta et al., *GCN Circ.* 8240). There is a possible detection of an afterglow in the UVOT white filter at RA (J2000) $10^h 54^m 39.78^s$ and Dec (J2000) $69^d 3' 57.9''$ with an estimated uncertainty of 0.8 arcsec (radius, 90% confidence). This position is consistent with the UVOT enhanced XRT position (Goad et al., *GCN Circ.* 8247). The afterglow candidate does not appear in the DSS images, and photometry from the second orbit of Swift observations suggests that it has faded. UVOT magnitudes and 3-sigma upper limits are reported in Table 1. The quoted upper limits have not been corrected for the expected Galactic extinction along the line of sight of $E(B - V) = 0.02$ mag. All photometry is on the UVOT flight system described in Poole et al. (2008, *MNRAS*, 383, 627) (Hoversten et al., *GCN Circ.* 8252).

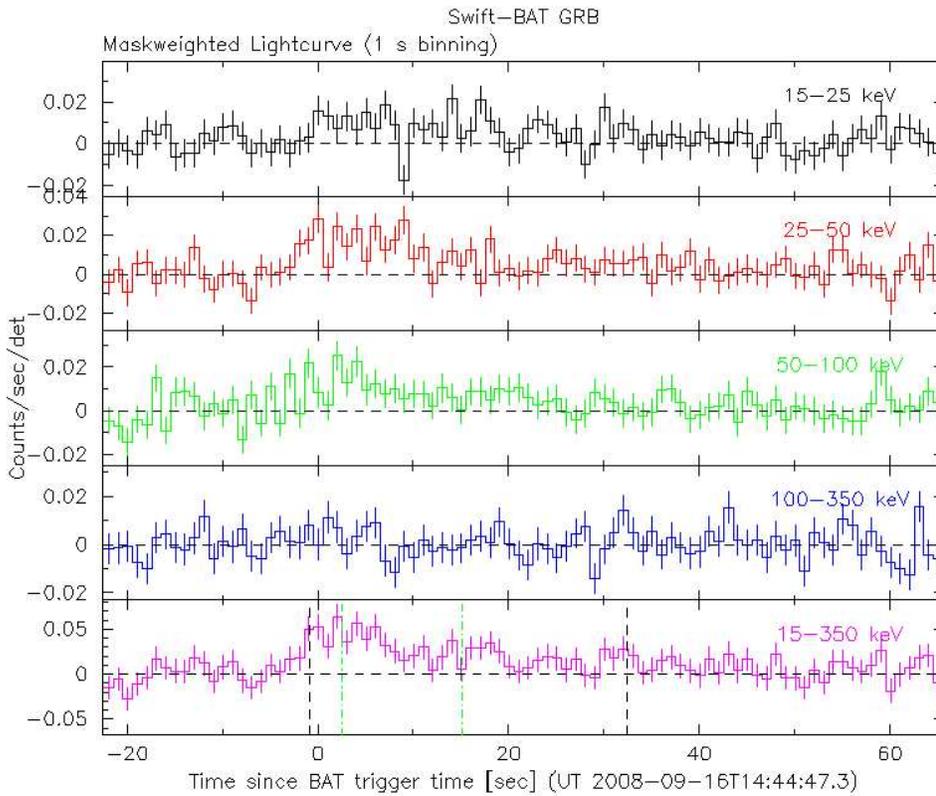


Figure 1: BAT Light curve. The mask-weighted 1-s binning light curve in the 4 individual plus total energy bands. The units are counts s $^{-1}$ illuminated-detector $^{-1}$ (note illum-det = 0.16 cm 2).

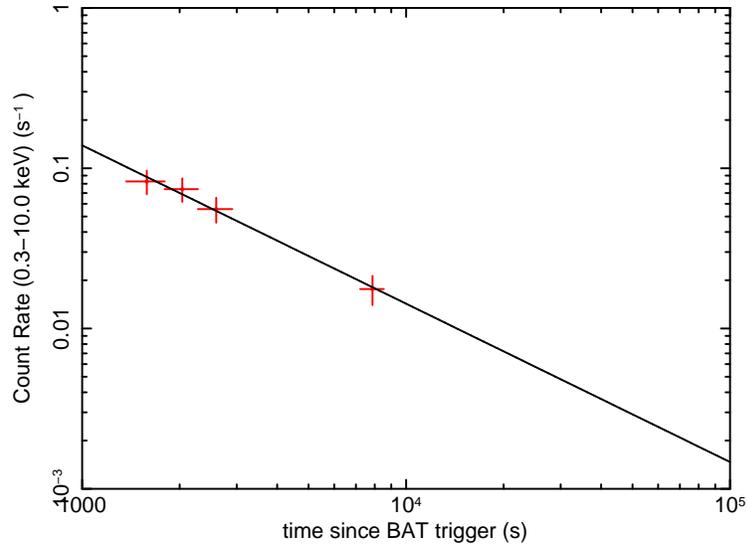


Figure 2: XRT Lightcurve. Counts s^{-1} in the 0.3-10 keV band taken in Photon Counting mode. The count rate to flux conversion factor is $1 \text{ count s}^{-1} \sim 6.6 \times 10^{-11} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

Filter	T_start (s)	T_stop (s)	Exp (s)	magnitudes
white	1359.0	1458.8	98.2	20.50 ± 0.21
white	7826.0	8025.7	196.6	> 21.27
v	1340.9	2920.7	342.1	> 19.62
b	1516.3	2676.5	155.6	> 20.32
u	1491.6	2651.7	155.6	> 19.91
uvw1	1467.3	2627.3	155.5	> 19.91
uvm2	1604.9	3076.8	285.0	> 20.06
uvw2	1556.0	2716.0	155.5	> 19.91

Table 1: Apparent magnitudes and 3σ upper limits from UVOT observations.