Swift Observation of GRB 110319A

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1 Introduction

At 02:16:41 UT, the Swift BAT triggered and located GRB 110319A (Trigger 449578, Melandri, et al., GCN Circ. 11807). Swift slewed immediately to the burst. The BAT on-board calculated location is RA, Dec = (356.401, -66.017) deg, which is

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RA(J2000) = 23^h \ 45^m \ 36^s

Dec(J2000) = -66^{\circ} \ 01' \ 01"
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with an uncertainty of 3 arcmin (radius, 90% containment, including systematic uncertainty). The BAT light curve showed a double-peaked structure with a duration of about 30 sec. The peak count rate was $\sim 3800 \ counts/s \ (15 - 350 \ keV)$, at $\sim 5 \ s$ after T_0 .

The XRT began observing the field at T + 55.9 s after the BAT trigger, finding a bright, fading, uncatalogued X-ray source with an enhanced position RA, Dec = (356.5017, -66.0114) deg, which is equivalent to:

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RA (J2000) = 23^h \ 46^m \ 0.43^s
Dec (J2000) = -66^{\circ} \ 00' \ 40.1''
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with an uncertainty of 1.8" (radius, 90% containment) (Goad, et al., GCN Circ. 11808).

UVOT took a finding chart exposure of 150 s with the White filter starting T+66 s after the BAT trigger. An afterglow candidate has been found in the optical filters. The $2.7' \times 2.7'$ sub-image covers 100% of the XRT error circle. The typical 3σ upper limit has been about 19.6 mag. No correction has been made for the expected extinction corresponding to $E_{(B-V)}$ of 0.03.

2 BAT Observation and Analysis

Using the data set from T-239 to T+963 s further analysis of BAT GRB 110319A has been performed by Swift team (Barthelmy, et al., GCN Circ. 11811). The BAT ground-calculated position is RA(J2000) = 356.510 deg (23^h 46^m 02.4^s), Dec(J2000) = -66.008 deg (-66° 00′ 28.7″) \pm 1.0′ (radius, sys+stat, 90% containment). The partial coding was 100%.

The mask-weighted light curve (Fig.1) shows two overlapping peaks starting at $\sim T+0$, peaking at $\sim T+5$ and $\sim T+13$ s, and ending at $\sim T+30$ s. $T_{90}(15-350~keV)$ is 19.3 ± 1.6 s (estimated error including systematics).

The time-averaged spectrum from T-0.3 to T+31.3 s is best fit by a power law with an exponential cutoff. This fit gives a photon index 1.31 ± 0.43 and E_{peak} of 21.9 ± 7.0 keV (chi squared 54.2 for 56 d.o.f.). For this model the total fluence in the 15-150 keV band is $(1.4\pm0.1)\times10^{-6}$ ergs/cm² and the 1-sec peak flux measured from T+13.1 s in the 15-150 keV band is 2.2 ± 0.2 ph/cm²/sec. A fit to a simple power law gives a photon index of 2.55 ± 0.08 (chi squared 86.5 for 57 d.o.f.). All the quoted errors are at the 90% confidence level.

3 XRT Observations and Analysis

We have analysed 9.9 ks of XRT data for GRB 110319A (Melandri, et al., GCN Circ. 11807); the data comprise 33 s in Windowed Timing (WT) mode (the first 7 s were taken while Swift was slewing) with the remainder in Photon Counting (PC) mode. The enhanced XRT position for this burst was given by Goad, et al., GCN Circ. 11808.

The light curve (Fig.2) can be modelled with a series of power-law decays. The initial decay index is $\alpha_1 = 3.1^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$. At T + 169 s the decay flattens to an $\alpha_2 = 0.65^{+0.06}_{-0.08}$. The light curve breaks again at T + 7816 s to a decay with $\alpha_3 = 1.24^{+0.10}_{-0.09}$.

A spectrum formed from the WT mode data can be fitted with an absorbed power-law with a photon spectral index of $3.4^{+0.4}_{-0.3}$. The best-fitting absorption column is $2.4^{+0.7}_{-0.6} \times 10^{21}~cm^{-2}$, in excess of the Galactic value of $2.6 \times 10^{20}~cm^{-2}$ (Kalberla et al. 2005). The PC mode spectrum has a photon index of $2.33^{+0.13}_{-0.14}$ and a best-fitting absorption column of $1.16^{+0.32}_{-0.18} \times 10^{21}cm^{-2}$. The counts to observed (unabsorbed) 0.3-10~keV flux conversion factor deduced from this spectrum is $3.3 \times 10^{-11} (5.0 \times 10^{-11})~erg~cm^{-2}~count^{-1}$.

4 UVOT Observation and Analysis

The Swift/UVOT began settled observations of the field of GRB 110319A T+65 s (Siegel, et al., GCN Circ. 11812) after the BAT trigger (Melandri, et al., GCN Circ. 11807). We identify an optical afterglow near the enchanced XRT position given by Melandri, et al., GCN Circ. 11810. The transient is only detected in the optical filters and shows fading between the first and second orbits.

The UVOT position is:

$$RA(J2000) = 23^h \ 46^m \ 00.69^s = 356.50287 \ deg$$

 $Dec(J2000) = -66^{\circ} \ 00' \ 40.4" = -66.01122 \ deg$

with an estimated uncertainty of 0.44" (radius, 90% confidence, statistical + systematic). Preliminary 3σ upper limits and magnitudes using the UVOT photometric system (Poole et al. 2008, MNRAS, 383, 627) for the exposures are:

Filter	Start	Stop	Exposure	$\mathrm{Mag} \ / \ 3\sigma \ \mathrm{UL}$
white (fc)	65	215	147	18.3 ± 0.07
white	3924	5560	393	20.32 ± 0.22
V	4336	5971	393	> 19.56
b	3719	5355	393	19.51 ± 0.21
b	11317	11950	615	> 20.63
u	277	395	115	18.13 ± 0.13
u	4950	11310	1081	19.76 ± 0.18
uvw1	4745	4945	196	> 19.72
uvw1	9497	10397	885	> 20.58
uvm2	4540	4740	196	> 19.64
uvm2	5976	6172	193	> 19.69
uvw2	4131	4330	196	> 19.91
uvw2	5566	5766	196	> 19.91

Table 1: Magnitude and 3σ limits from UVOT observations . The values quoted above are not corrected for the Galactic extinction due to the reddening of $E_{(B-V)} = 0.03$ in the direction of the burst (Schlegel et al. 1998)

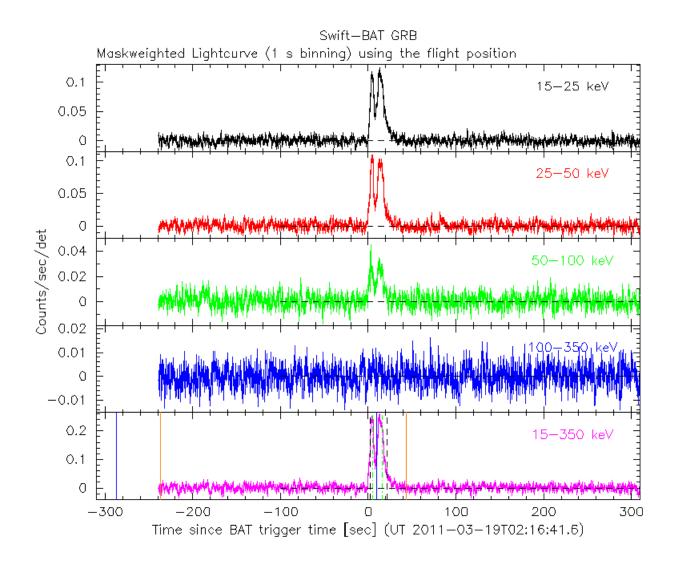


Figure 1: BAT Light curve. The mask-weighted light curve in the 4 individual plus total energy bands (15 - 25, 25 - 50, 50 - 100, 100 - 350 and 15 - 350 keV).

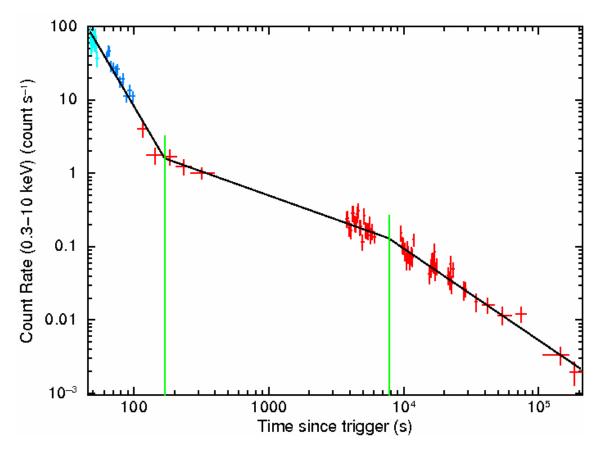


Figure 2: XRT Lightcurve. It can be modelled by a series of power-laws. Data are from WT mode (blue) and PC mode (red); green vertical lines mark the times where the power-law decay changes.