Swift Observations of GRB 111016A

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1 Introduction

BAT triggered on GRB 111016A at 18:37:04 UT, (trigger 505646, Mangano et al., GCN Circ. 12439). This was an image trigger on a long burst with $T_{90} = 550 \pm 105$ s. Swift slewed immediately to the burst and found an X-ray counterpart to the burst in XRT (Osborne et al., GCN Circ. 12440). XRT began follow up observations at T + 180 s, and UVOT observations began at T + 187 s.

Our best position is the enhanced XRT position (using the XRT-UVOT alignment and matching UVOT field sources to the USNO-B1 catalogue): $RA(J2000) = 153.83400 \ deg \ (10^h \ 15^m \ 20.16^s)$ $Dec(J2000) = +27.46235 \ deg \ (+27^d \ 27' \ 44.5")$ with an uncertainty of 1.5 arcsec (radius, 90% confidence, Evans et al., GCN Circ. 12441).

The field of GRB 111016A has been observed by some ground based optical telescopes: the MITSuME 50 cm telescope of Akeno Observatory, ~15 min after the BAT trigger (Usui et al., GCN Circ. 12443); the robotic Palomar 60 inch telescope, ~16.9 hours after the initial Swift trigger (Cenko et al., GCN Circ. 12444); the 0.5m robotic telescope D50 in Ondrejov observatory, ~5.5 hours after the Swift trigger (Blazek et al., GCN Circ. 12448); the WIYN High Resolution Infrared Camera (WHIRC) on the WIYN 3.5m telescope, about 17 hours post-burst (Kamble et al., GCN Circ. 12451); the 40-cm telescope ORI-40 of Kitab ISON observatory, on October 16 at 22:07:26 UT (Volnova et al., GCN Circ. 12486). A positon for marginally detected optical afterglow candidate is given in Cenko et al., GCN Circ. 12444.

The field of GRB 111016A has been observed in the Optical/NIR with the Near-Infrared Imager and Spectrometer (NIRI) mounted on the 8 m Gemini North telescope (Cenko et al., GCN Circ. 12447).

2 BAT Observation and Analysis

Using the data set from T-239 to T+963 s from telemetry downlinks, the refined analysis of BAT GRB 111016A was performed by the Swift team and reported in Barthelmy *et al.*, *GCN Circ.* 12445.

The BAT ground-calculated position is $RA(J2000) = 153.826 \ deg \ (10^h \ 15^m \ 18.2^s) \ Dec(J2000) = +27.474 \ deg \ (+27^d \ 28^m \ 26.7^s)$ with an uncertainty of 2.2 arcmin, (radius, sys+stat, 90% containment). The partial coding was 64%.

The mask-weighted light curve (Fig.1) shows a series of slighlty overlapping peaks starting at $\sim T-5$ s, peaking at T+58, T+118, T+160, T+210, T+255 s, then returning to baseline, followed by smaller peaks at T+410, T+540, T+600 s, and possible peaks at T+700 and T+800 s. The burst location goes out of the BAT FOV at T+960 s. T₉₀ (15-350 keV) is 550 ± 105 s (estimated error including systematics).

The time-averaged spectrum from T+35.41 to T+614.48 s is best fit by a simple power-law model. The power law index of the time-averaged spectrum is 1.95 ± 0.12 . The total fluence in the 15-150 keV band is $(4.0\pm0.3)\times10^{-6}$ erg cm⁻². The 1-sec peak photon flux measured from T+115.23 s in the 15-150 keV band is 0.9 ± 0.2 ph cm⁻² s⁻¹. All the quoted errors are at the 90% confidence level.

The results of the batgrbproduct analysis are available at http://gcn.gsfc.nasa.gov/notices_s/505646/BA/

3 XRT Observations and Analysis

The whole Swift-XRT dataset for GRB 111016A (trigger 505646, Mangano et al., GCN Circ. 12439), consists of 81.2 ks of data from 168.38 s to 710.5 ks after the BAT trigger. The data comprise ~ 9 s in Windowed Timing (WT) mode taken while Swift was slewing (from T+168.4 to T+178 s), ~ 689 s in Windowed Timing (WT) mode (from T+185 to T+ 873.7 s), with the remainder in Photon Counting (PC) mode (from T+4055.8 s). Using the initial 5089 s of PC mode data and 11 UVOT images, we find an enhanced XRT position (using the XRT-UVOT alignment and matching UVOT field sources to the USNO-B1 catalogue): RA(J2000), Dec(J2000) = 153.83400, +27.46235 which is equivalent to RA(J2000) = 10^h 15^m 20.16^s Dec(J2000) = $+27^d$ 27′ 44.5" with an uncertainty of 1.5 arcsec (radius, 90% confidence, Evans et al., GCN Circ. 12441).

Preliminary refined analysis has been reported in Mangano et al., GCN Circ. 12442. After the first orbit of WT data where flaring activity occurs, the 0.3–10 keV XRT light curve (Fig.2) can be modelled with a broken power-law with the following best fit parameters: $\alpha_1=3.582^{+0.2421}_{-1.103}$, $T_{break1}=T+5701^{+972}_{-451}$ s $\alpha_2=0.9838^{+0.06023}_{-0.0706}$

A spectrum formed from the 689 s WT mode data can be fitted with an absorbed power-law with a photon spectral index of $1.801^{+0.025}_{-0.024}$. The best-fitting intrinsic absorption column is $1.597^{+0.074}_{-0.072} \times 10^{21}$ cm⁻², in excess of the Galactic value of 2.5×10^{20} cm⁻² (Kalberla *et al.*, 2005). A spectrum formed from the initial 28.6 ks of PC mode data (from T+4055.8 s to T+73.5 ks) can be fitted with an absorbed power-law with a photon spectral index of $2.26^{+0.16}_{-0.16}$. The best-fitting intrinsic absorption column is $5.0^{+3.1}_{-2.9} \times 10^{20}$ cm⁻². The counts to observed (unabsorbed) 0.3-10 keV flux conversion factor deduced from this spectrum is 3.2×10^{-11} (4.2×10^{-11}) erg cm⁻² s⁻¹.

The results of the XRT-team automatic analysis are available at http://www.swift.ac.uk/xrt_curves/00505646.

4 UVOT Observation and Analysis

The Swift/UVOT began settled observations of the field of GRB 111016A approximately 188 s after the BAT detection (Mangano et al., GCN Circ. 12439). No optical afterglow consistent with the Enhanced Swift-XRT position (Evans et al., GCN Circ. 12441) is detected in the initial UVOT exposures, however a marginal source is detected in followup observations in the UVOT white filter. This position is consistent with the source observed by Cenko et al., GCN Circ. 12444. Preliminary 3-sigma upper limits/magnitudes for the first finding chart (FC) exposure and subsequent exposures are given in the following Table 1 where T_{start} and T_{stop} are the start and stop time of the observation (Pritchard et al., GCN Circ. 12446).

The above magnitudes are not corrected for the Galactic extinction corresponding to a reddening of E(B-V) = 0.05 (Schlegel et al., 1998, ApJS, 500, 525). The photometry is on the UVOT photometric system described in Poole et al. (2008, MNRAS, 383, 627).

The final UVOT light curves are shown in figure 3.

Filter	$T_{start}(\mathbf{s})$	$T_{stop}(\mathbf{s})$	Exp(s)	Magnitude/Upper Limit
white (FC)	188	337	147	>20.3
u (FC)	345	595	246	>19.3
white	188	23781	1926	> 21.5
white	27360	45216	4662	21.56
v	4468	16602	1278	> 20.5
b	5288	23264	1967	>21.6
u	345	22351	1328	>20.4
uvw1	724	18207	1095	> 20.5
uvm2	700	17507	1298	>20.8
uvw2	651	12429	1135	>20.7

Table 1: Magnitudes or 3-sigma upper limits from UVOT observations. (FC) stands for Finding Chart.

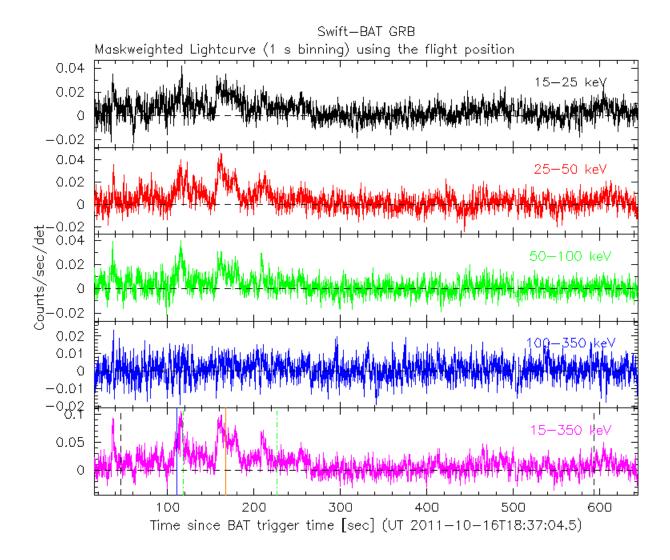


Figure 1: BAT Light curve. The mask-weighted light curve in the 4 individual plus total energy bands. The units are counts s⁻¹ illuminated-detector⁻¹ (note illum-det = 0.16 cm^2) and T_0 is 2011 Oct 16 18:37:04 UT.

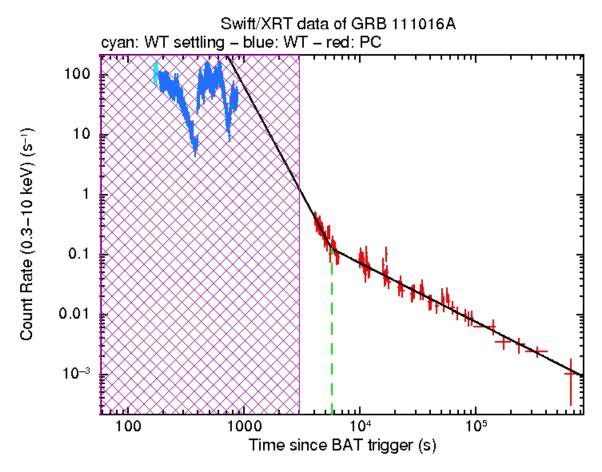


Figure 2: XRT Light curve. Counts/s in the 0.3–10 keV band: Windowed Timing mode (cyan for settling and blue for settled observation), and Photon Counting mode (red). The approximate conversion is 1 count/s = $\sim 4.2 \times 10^{-11}$ erg cm⁻² s⁻¹.

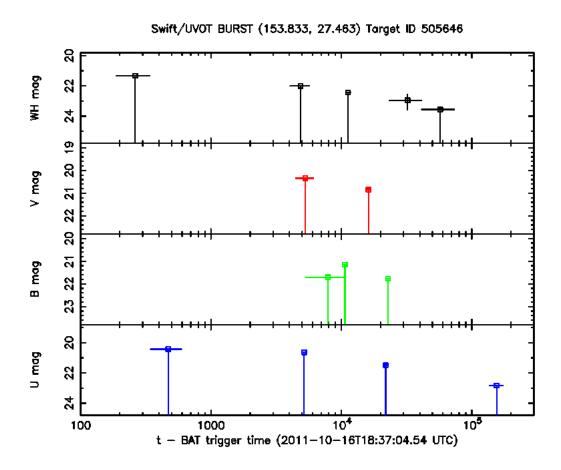


Figure 3: Final UVOT light curves, including upper limits from Table 1.