

GRB prompt emission modeling

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Outline

- I Leptonic and lepto-hadronic models for prompt GRB emission
- II GRB prompt emission from the synchrotron radiation of relativistic electrons and the low energy spectral slope
- III Distance measurements to dust clouds using GRB X-ray halos and the low energy spectrum reconstruction
- IV Off-axis MeV and very-high energy gamma-ray emissions from structured gamma-ray burst jets



TeV observations: decaying afterglows



MAGIC slew to the direction of GRB 190114C (z=0.42) about 50 s after the trigger and detected > 0.2 TeV photons $E_{iso} \approx 3 \times 10^{53} \text{ erg}$



H.E.S.S. collaboration 2021, Science

GRB 190829A: power law spectrum in the range (0.18-3.3) TeV γ_{VHE}^{int} =2.07 -low-luminosity GRB -observed between 4 and 56 h after the trigger z = 0.0785 $E_{iso} \approx 3 \times 10^{50} \text{ ergs}$

GRB 160821B



MAGIC collaboration, ApJ, 2021

short GRB at z = 0.162 MAGIC observations started from 24 s after the trigger Evidence of a gamma-ray signal above ~0.5 TeV until 4h after the burst $E_{iso} \approx 1.2 \times 10^{49} \text{ erg}$

 $\mathrm{d}F/\mathrm{d}\varepsilon \propto \varepsilon^{\alpha_{\mathrm{int}}}$

TeV observations: GRB 22



SVOM and EP observational era



SVOM GRB 250314A: z ~ 7.3 (among the three most distant GRBs known)

2400 SVOM/GRM GRD 01 15--5000keV 2300 Rate(cnts/s) 0057 0075 0075 0075 2000 2300 SVOM/GRM GRD 02 15--5000keV Rate(cnts/s) 2200 2100 2000 2000 SVOM/GRM GRD 03 5000keV Rate(cnts/s) 0061 0081 1700 -100 10 20 30 40 50 60 Time(s) after T0=2025-01-03T09:56:19.500 binsize=0.8s GCN Circular 38786

SVOM GRB 250103A: long duration GRB, $T_{90} > 250$ s (5-120 keV)



GRB 250103A: EP T_{90, γ} (10 - 1000 keV) ~ 55 s T_{90, X} (0.5 - 4 keV) ~ 129 s

SVOM/GRM

Internal shock model: recent results

The jet is assumed to be weakly magnetized at large distance and the prompt emission is emitted above the photosphere by shock accelerated electrons.



Modeling:

- <u>1. dynamics of internal shocks</u>
- 2. radiative processes in the shocked medium
- 3. observed spectra and time profiles

Bosnjak, Daigne & Dubus 2009 Daigne, Bosnjak & Dubus 2011 Bosnjak & Daigne 2014 Rudolph, Bosnjak, Palladino, Sadeh, Winter 2022 Rudolph, Petropoulou, Bosnjak, Winter 2023 Rudolph, Petropoulou, Winter, Bosnjak 2023 Daigne & Bosnjak 2025



Daigne & Mochkovitch 2000: the simplified approach for dynamics has been confirmed by comparison with a full hydrodynamical calculation

Physical conditions in the shocked medium: Lorentz factor Γ^* , comoving density ρ^* , comoving specific energy density ε^*

$$R_{\rm is} \simeq \frac{8\kappa^2}{(\kappa-1)(\kappa+1)^3} \bar{\Gamma}^2 c\tau$$

$$\Gamma_* \simeq \frac{2\sqrt{\kappa}}{1+\kappa}\bar{\Gamma},$$

$$\rho_* \simeq \frac{\dot{E}}{4\pi R_{\rm is}^2 \Gamma_*^2 c^3},$$

$$\epsilon_* \simeq \frac{\left(\sqrt{\kappa}-1\right)^2}{2\sqrt{\kappa}}c^2.$$

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 $n_{\rm e}^{\rm acc} \simeq \zeta \frac{\rho_*}{m_{\rm p}}$

Physical conditions in the shocked medium: Lorentz factor Γ^* , comoving density ρ^* , comoving specific energy density ϵ^*

10³

3

Relativistic electron density:

$$n(\gamma) \simeq (p-1) \frac{n_{\rm e}^{\rm acc}}{\Gamma_{\rm m}} \left(\frac{\gamma}{\Gamma_{\rm m}}\right)^{-p} \text{ for } \gamma \ge \Gamma_{\rm m}$$

$$\zeta < | \text{ of all electrons}$$
is accelerated
$$\Gamma_{\rm m} \simeq \frac{p-2}{p-1} \frac{\epsilon_{\rm e}}{n_{\rm e}^{\rm acc}} m_{\rm e} c^2 \simeq \frac{p-2}{p-1} \frac{\epsilon_{\rm e}}{\zeta} \frac{m_{\rm p}}{m_{\rm e}} \frac{\epsilon_{*}}{c^2} \cdot \frac{10^{\circ}}{10^{\circ}} \int_{10^{\circ}}^{10^{\circ}} \frac{10^{\circ}} \frac{10^{\circ}} \frac{10^{\circ}}{10^{\circ}} \int$$

Dissipated energy is distributed between protons, electrons (fraction ε_{e}) and magnetic field (fraction ε_{B})

Radiation: the time evolution of electrons and photons in the comoving frame is solved (time-dependent radiative code)

Comptonization parameter $Y = L_{ic} / L_{syn}$

IC dominant: low frequency synchrotron peak Thomson regime

Synchrotron dominant:

high frequency synchrotron peak Klein-Nishina regime



This calculation is done at all times along the propagation of each shock wave All the contributions are added together to produce a synthetic gamma-ray burst (spectrum+lightcurve)

Synchrotron spectrum

Sari, Piran & Narayan 1998



Synchrotron spectrum



GBM, having large fluences and large $\mathsf{E}_{\mathsf{peak}}$ values



 \rightarrow the distributions of

spectral slopes peak

far from the typical

expected for

values -2/3 and -3/2

synchrotron spectrum

from marginally fast

cooling electrons

at -0.71 and -1.71, not

Poolakkil et al. 2021



Oganesyan et al. 2018; 2017 joint XRT+BAT spectral analysis for 34 GRBs

Steep low-energy slopes



Steep low-energy slopes

→ synchrotron emission + IC scatterings in the Klein-Nishina regime: $\alpha \rightarrow -1$ but not much steeper



Multi-wavelength radiation model for low-luminosity GRBs, and the implications for UHECRs Rudolph ŽB Pall

Rudolph, ŽB, Palladino, Sadeh, Winter 2022

Motivation

LL GRBs are fainter about four orders of magnitude (L $\leq 10^{49}$ erg/s) from the commonly observed long GRBs relatively soft ($E_p \leq 100$ keV) not highly beamed (e.g. Soderberg 2006) low Lorentz factors ($\Gamma \leq 50$) (e.g. Cano et al. 2017) in some cases exhibit substantially longer durations (up to several 10³ s)

Their low luminosity limits the detection to a distance of ~ 100 Mpc, but LL GRBs are much more common than long GRBs (Liang et al. 2007)



Multi-wavelength radiation model for low-luminosity GRBs, and the implications for UHECRs

Motivation

LL GRBs have been proposed as sources of cosmic rays and neutrinos

(Murase et al. 2006; 2008, Zhang et al. 2018; Boncioli et al. 2019; Samuelsson et al. 2020): they are likely to have a much higher event rate in the local universe + heavy nuclei much easily survive inside the sources due to their lower radiation luminosity

 \rightarrow LL GRBs are of special interest, both for the understanding of GRBs and their connection to SNe, and as sources of HE non-electromagnetic signals such as GWs

Multi-wavelength radiation model for low-luminosity GRBs, and the implications for UHECRs

Models

L<u>ong GRBs seen off-axis</u>: Pescalli et al. 2015; Aloy et al. 2018 <u>Relativistic shock breakouts</u>: Bromberg et al. 2011; Nakar & Sari 2012; Nakar 2015 <u>Mildly relativistic jets seen on-axis</u>: Daigne & Mochkovitch 2007; Zhang et al. 2012; Irvin & Chevalier 2016

Constraints:

→ relativistic breakouts may take place in choked GRBs, where the relativistic jets fail to penetrate through the stellar envelope, and no regular long GRB is produced (Nakar & Sari 2012).

The relativistic shock-breakout model predicts a 'fundamental plane' correlation

$$\Gamma_{90} \sim 20 \text{ s} (1 + z)^{-1.68} (E_{\gamma,\text{iso}}/10^{46} \text{ erg})^{1/2} (E_{\text{p}}/50 \text{ keV})^{-2.68}$$

Nakar & Sari 2012

For GRB 120422A:

the predicted shock-breakout duration ~1100s $T_{\rm 90}$ ~ 5 s



Reference GRBs



Kaneko et al. 2006





Model inputs:



		GRB 980425	GRB 100316D	GRB 120714B
Observed	$E_{\gamma, \text{ iso}} \text{ (erg)}$	$1.6 \cdot 10^{48}$	$3.9\cdot10^{49}$	$5.9\cdot 10^{50}$
	<i>T</i> ₉₀ (s)	35	1300	159
	E_{peak} (keV)	122	30	101
	Z	0.0085	0.059	0.3984
		sp-GRB	ul-GRB	hl-GRB
Input	$\Gamma_{\text{initial, max}}$,	40, 10	40, 10	80, 20
	$\Gamma_{\text{initial, min}}$			
	$L_{\rm wind} ({\rm erg} {\rm s}^{-1})$	$2.5\cdot 10^{48}$	$5.8\cdot 10^{48}$	$3 \cdot 10^{50}$
	N _{shells}	1000	1000	1000
	$t_{\rm eng}$ (s)	40	1000	130

Rudolph, ŽB, Palladino, Sadeh, Winter 2022

Swift BAT archive; swift.gsfc.nasa.gov





40

50

60



Predicted observed spectra for the prototype hI-GRB with $\varepsilon_{\rm B} = 10^{-3}$ placed at different redshifts. minimal fluence detectable by CTA for an observation duration of 150 s.

Rudolph, ŽB, Palladino, Sadeh, Winter 2022 Gao et al 2017 (AM³)

Maximal energies of cosmic-ray nuclei

The maximal energies are calculated for each collision using the simulated photon spectra and parameters of the jet evolution.

The acceleration rate is balanced with the energy losses (photo-hadronic cooling, photodisintegration cooling, synchrotron and adiabatic cooling) with NeuCosmA code (Biehl et al 2018).

Iron nuclei (protons) can reach energies up to $\simeq 10^{11}$ GeV (10¹⁰ GeV).

High $\epsilon_{\rm B}$ yields higher maximal energies.



A LL GRB can either have a leptonic inverse Compton VHE component in the photon spectrum (for low ε_B) or accelerate cosmic rays to highest energies (for high ε_B).

Rudolph, ŽB, Palladino, Sadeh, Winter 2022

Lepto-hadronic model

AM³ time-dependent code (Gao et al. 2017) following the coupled evolution of photons, electrons, positrons, muons, pions, p, n, and ν

All relevant nonthermal processes included: synchrotron emission, SSA, IC scatterings, photopair and photopion production, $\gamma\gamma$ -annihilation, adiabatic cooling & escape



GRB 221009A

Locations of the dust layers associated with the five smallest X-ray rings from the GRB 221009A:

- GRB occurred at low Galactic latitude

The direction to the burst; dark patches represent the dust layers responsible for producing the X-ray rings

- the smallest ring corresponds to the most distant dust



Credit: NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

A. Tiengo

Dust scattered X-rays detected at off-axis angle θ ($\approx \theta_{sca}$ if $d_{dust} << d_{source}$) will have a time delay:

$$t - t_0 = \frac{x}{1 - x} \frac{d_{source}\theta^2}{2c}$$

$$\theta(t) = \sqrt{\frac{1-x}{x} \frac{2c(t-t_0)}{d_{source}}} \approx \sqrt{\frac{2c(t-t_0)}{d_{dust}}} \quad \text{if } d_{dust} << d_{source}$$

Halo photons scattered at larger radii suffer greater time delay owing to their longer paths.



GRB 221009A

GRB 221009A: EPIC 0.7-4 keV images [counts/s/ arcmin²] of the expanding rings

The two red circles of radii 8' and 11' : a reference for ring expansion.



Tiengo, Pintore, ..ŽB, Jelić, Campana 2023 Šiljeg, ŽB, Jelić, Tiengo et al. 2023 Vaia, ŽB et al. 2025

MOS2 spectra of rings 1-6 (Tiengo et al. 2023) By fitting the spectra of the rings with different models for the dust composition and grain size distribution —> the spectrum of the GRB prompt emission in the 0.7 - 4 keV as an absoprbed power law with photon index Γ =1 -1.4 The photon index and the fluence indicate the presence of a possible soft excess with respect to the extrapolation of the main GRB peak!



Comparison of distance measurements to dust clouds using GRB x-ray halos and 3D dust extinction

Šiljeg, ŽB, Jelić, Tiengo et al. MNRAS 2023

We used four 3D extinction maps that exploit photometric data from different surveys and apply diverse algorithms for the 3D mapping of extinction

→ we compared the X-ray halo derived distances with the local maxima in the extinction density distribution.



2D cut of extinction density cube from L22 map perpendicular to the plane of the galaxy in the direction of GRB 221009A. Height is measured with respect to the position of the plane of galaxy: L22: GRB 221009A



GRB prompt emission from the synchrotron radiation of relativistic electrons in a decaying magnetic field Daigne & Bosnjak 2025

Motivation

The theoretically predicted synchrotron spectrum leads to a slope $F_{\nu} \propto \nu^{-1/2}$ below 100 keV, which is in contradiction to the much harder spectra observed during the prompt GRB emission.



A possible solution proposed by Daigne et al. 2011; Beniamini & Piran 2013: in **the marginally fast cooling regime** ($\Gamma_{c,0} \simeq (0.1 - 1) \Gamma_m$), where the cooling break is very close to the peak frequency, the intermediate portion of the spectrum (slope = -3/2) disappears and the slope -2/3 is recovered (still with a high radiative efficiency) GRB prompt emission from the synchrotron radiation of relativistic electrons in a decaying magnetic field

Motivation

Marginally fast cooling can naturally emerge if electrons are radiating in a magnetic field decaying on a timescale t_B' ,

$$B'(t') = B_0' e^{-t'/t'} B$$
 where $t'_{syn} (\Gamma_m) < t'_B < t'_{dyn}$

→ electrons having $\gamma \gtrsim \Gamma_m$ will still experience a magnetic field B'₀ and the peak + high-enegy part of the synchrotron spectrum will not be affected

 \rightarrow electrons with Lorentz factors $\Gamma_{c,0} < \gamma < \Gamma_m$ will lose their energy more slowly than expected because they will encounter a lower magnetic field when they start to travel outside the initial acceleration site. The cooling break will increase to:

$$\nu_{\rm c} \simeq \nu_{\rm c,0} \, ({\rm t'}_{\rm dyn} \, / \, {\rm t'}_{\rm B})^2$$

This allows to naturally tend towards the marginally fast cooling regime, even when $\Gamma_{c,0} / \Gamma_m << 1$. The radiative efficiency will remain high as long as t'_{syn} (Γ_m) $<< t'_B$

so the final condition becomes:

 $\Gamma_{c,0} / \Gamma_m \lesssim t'_B / t'_{dyn} \lesssim 1$

Radiative mødels

A hierarchy of scales: $t'_{acc} (\Gamma_m) \ll t'_{rad} (\Gamma_m) \ll t_{dyn}'$

 the magnetic field may decay on a length scale much shorter than the shocked region scale t'_{dyn} (e.g. Keshet et al. 2009). Radiating electrons probe the magnetic field on >> scale than in the PIC simulations but - when they are in fast cooling - on a much smaller scale than the (magneto-) hydrodynamical scale.

Prompt emission models: Pe'er & Zhang 2006; Derishev 2007; Zhao et al. 2014;

Uhm & Zhang 2014; Geng et al. 2018 (much larger scales for B' decay)



Radiative model: exponential decay of the magnetic field

• The magnetic field decay: $B'(t') = B_0' e^{-t'/t_B'}$

Electrons radiate efficiently only above an effective Lorentz factor:

 $\Gamma_{c,eff} \simeq \Gamma_{c,0} (t'_{dyn}/t'_B)$

which leads to an increase of the cooling break frequency by a factor (t_{dyn}'/t_B')²

For an extreme decay, we expect a slow cooling spectrum even for $\Gamma_m > \Gamma_{c,0}$





Spectral evolution in the internal shock model: steep low energy slopes







Daigne & Bošnjak 2025

Off-axis MeV and very-high energy gamma-ray emissions from structured gamma-ray burst jets ŽB, Zhang, Murase, Ioka 2024

Motivation

loka & Nakamura (2018) considered that sGRB 170817A is faint because the jet is off-axis to our line of sight (Abbott et al. 2017; Granot et al. 2017; Lamb & Kobayashi 2018)

Most of the emission is beamed into the on-axis direction via a relativistic effect and an off-axis observer receives photons emitted outside the beaming cone → the apparent energy of the off axis jet becomes faint (loka & Nakamura 2001; Yamazaki et al. 2018)

EM counterparts associated with binary NS merger have been anticipated:



- 1. a binary NS merger is at the origin of sGRB
- 2. sGRB produces an afterglow via interaction with the interstellar medium. For off-axis observers, the early afterglow looks faint
- 3. a small amount of NS material ejected from the NS merger is expected to emit optical-IR signal ('macronova')
- 4. a radio flare and the associated X-ray remnants occur through the interaction between the merger ejecta and the ISM

Off-axis MeV and very-high energy gamma-ray emissions from structured gamma-ray burst jets

Motivation

The off-axis model was initially studied by using a top-hat jet with uniform brightness and a sharp edge \rightarrow the simplest off-axis model seems to be difficult to explain $\nu_{peak} \sim 185 \text{ keV}$

The afterglow observations including VLBI observations of superluminal motion revealed a jet with $E_{iso} > 10^{52}$ erg, a narrow core $\theta_c \leq 5^\circ$ and a viewing angle ~ 14° - 28° (Mooley et al. 2018; Ghirlanda et al. 2018)



Off-axis MeV and very-high energy gamma-ray emissions from structured gamma-ray burst jets

Off-axis emission from a structured jet



region arises neither from the jet core, nor at the line of sight at the viewing angle, but from the off-centre jet.

Off-axis MeV and very-high energy gamma-ray emissions from structured gamma-ray burst jets

ŽB, Zhang, Murase, loka 2024

TeV photons

The different energy photons (MeV, TeV) arrive to the observer from different emission zones for off-axis structured jets, mainly due to the effect of the two-photon pair annihilation process

The optical depth for VHE photons is much higher in the core region near the jet surface, which gradually decreases outwards allowing VHE photons to escape.







Emission regions with 50% surface brightness are shifted between the MeV and TeV bands!



ma-ray emissions from structured

The optical depth is sensitive to the emission radius: the corresponding time delay between the typical arrival time of the TeV and MeV emission decreases with the increase of the emission radius.



→ We selected 3 representative reference events out of the sample of detected LL GRBs (GRB 980425, GRB 100316D, GRB 120714B), and modelled the three prototypes based on these reference events: a single-peaked GRB of medium peak energy (sp-GRB), ultra-long multipeaked GRB (ul-GRB) and a single-peaked GRB with higher luminosity and redshift (hl-GRB).

→ We found that LL GRBs are indeed potential targets for multimessenger observtaions and could be detected by current/future IACTs: this is mainly due to their **low redshifts** (and high local rate) which reduce the effect of EBL absorption at the HE

→ The intensity of the HE component is linked to the magnetic field strength

→ LL GRBs are able to accelerate nuclei to the UHE: the maximal energies of iron nuclei (protons) could be as high as $\approx 10^{11}$ GeV (10^{10} GeV). The highes maximal energies were achieved for large magnetic fields, for which the IC efficiency is low



→ We studied the radiative signatures of cosmic-ray protons in the prompt phase of energetic GRBs. We found that hadronic signatures appear as corelated flux increases in the optical-UV to soft X-ray and GeV to TeV gamma-ray ranges in the synchrotron scenarios

When the characteristic decay length of the magnetic field (B $\propto e^{-t'/t}B'$) is significantly shorter than the dynamical scale (t_B'/t_{dyn}' ~ 0.01, 0.001), the low energy prompt GRB synchrotron spectrum becomes significantly harder. The regime of marginally fast cooling is naturally achieved

When considering the off-axis structured jets, we found that **different energy photons could arrive from different emission zones**, mainly due to the effect of the two-photon pair annihilation process. The optical depth for VHE photons is sensitive to the emission radius, where the corresponding **time delay between the typical arrival time of the TeV and MeV emission** decreases with the increase of the emission radius.

