GRB prompt emission mechanisms

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Prompt emission models
Possible emission sites in GRBs

Central engine
Relativistic ejection

Photosphere
Internal dissipation in optically thin regime (shocks or reconnection)

Contribution of each region?
Dissipation mechanism?
Radiative process?

Internal dissipation: prompt
Deceleration: afterglow
Internal dissipation (1) photosphere

- The relativistic outflow becomes transparent
- Internal energy can be released as radiation
- Almost no theoretical uncertainties
  (still: lateral geometry of the jet; initial magnetization)
- Spectrum is quasi-thermal: exp. cutoff at high-energy
  PL at low-energy with $\alpha \approx +0.4$

Goodman 1986; Paczynski 1986; see also Beloborodov 2011; Lundman et al. 2013; Deng & Zhang 2014
Internal dissipation (1) photosphere

**PHOTOSPHERE:**
- The relativistic outflow becomes transparent
- Internal energy can be released as radiation
- Almost no theoretical uncertainties
- Spectrum is quasi-thermal

**DISSIPATIVE PHOTOSPHERE:**
- Sub-photospheric dissipation: non-thermal electrons
- Large uncertainties: details of the dissipation process
  - Neutron heating
  - Internal shocks
  - Reconnection
  - ...
- Non-thermal spectrum: Comptonization & Synchrotron

Rees & Meszaros 2005; Pe’er et al. 2006; Beloborodov 2010; Vurm et al. 2011
Non-thermal emission can be produced above the photosphere if there are dissipation processes producing non-thermal electrons.

SSC is ruled out by *Fermi* observations – Synchrotron? 

**INTERNAL SHOCKS:**
- Assumes: Variability of the central engine + low magnetization at large distance
- Large uncertainties: microphysics (B amplification, e acceleration)?
- Non-thermal spectrum, several components (syn, IC)


**RECONNECTION:**
- Assumes: Variability + large mag. at large distance
- Large uncertainties: radius? microphysics?
- Non-thermal spectrum

See e.g. Lyutikov & Blandford 2003; Zhang & Yan 2011
Models vs Observations
Prompt soft gamma-ray emission
Light curves

All possible sites for the prompt emission can reproduce the observed variable light curves, but with important differences due to very different radii.

\[ \Gamma \]

Photons emitted at higher latitudes arrive at later times « curvature effect » - Delay \( \frac{R}{\Gamma^2 c} \)
Light curves

- **(DISSIPATIVE) PHOTOSPHERE:**
  - Low radius: curvature effect is negligible (except for peculiar lateral distribution)
  - The light curve directly traces the activity of the central engine
Light curves

- **(DISSIPATIVE) PHOTOSPHERE:**
  - Low radius: curvature effect is negligible (except for peculiar lateral distribution)
  - The light curve directly traces the activity of the central engine

- **INTERNAL SHOCKS:**
  - The light curve is also tracing the central activity
  - Additional effects: shock propagation & curvature effect

- **RECONNECTION:**
  - The light curve is also tracing the central activity
  - Additional effects: reconnection process (fast variability) & curvature effect

Open issue with observations: continuum of variability timescales or two components?
Spectrum (1) models

General shape ("Band") / Low-energy photon index $\alpha$ (obs: $\alpha \approx -1$)

- **PHOTOSPHERE:** ?
  - $\alpha$ too large except for peculiar lateral struct.
  - Time-integ. spec. ?

- **DISSIPATIVE PHOTOSPH.:** ✓?
  - $\alpha$ correct (depends on magnetization)

- **INTERNAL SHOCKS:** ?
  - Synchrotron only: $\alpha = -3/2$ (fast cooling)
  - Possible mechanisms to increase $\alpha$
    - (a) Marginally fast cooling
    - (b) IC in KN regime
    - (c) B decay

- **RECONNECTION:** ?
  - $\alpha$ correct ? (slow heating in turbulent acc.)
  - Spectrum is probably much too broad (multi emitters)

(a) Daigne et al. 11; Beniamini & Piran 13
(b) Derishev et al. 01; Bosnjak et al. 09; Wang et al. 09; Daigne et al. 11
(c) Derishev 07; Lemoine 13; Uhm & Zhang 14; Zhao et al. 14

Uhm & Zhang 2014
Spectrum (2) observations

- Should we believe the distribution of $\alpha$? the Band shape?
  - *Fermi* bursts: multi-component spectra (2, 3 components)

- Parameters of the “Band” component vary when the other components are taken into account

See e.g. Guiriec et al. submitted
Two bright *Fermi* bursts
BB+Band+PL [GBM+LAT]

- GRB 080916C: $\alpha < -1$
- GRB 090926A: $\alpha \rightarrow -1$

- Should we believe that the spectrum is so narrow around the peak?
  - Spectral evolution in GRBs
  - Integration of a time-evolving Band function is not a Band function (it is broader)

(Briggs et al. 1999)
Distribution of $E_{\text{peak}}$

Spectral evolution

- $E_{\text{peak}}$ varies a lot:
  - from a GRB to another (XRF, XRR, GRBs, short GRBs)
  - within a GRB (spectral evolution)

- dissipative photosphere: ✔️? (depends on the details of the heating)
- internal shocks: ✔️
- reconnection: ❓

See discussion by Vurm et al. 2013; Asano & Meszaros 2013; Gill & Thompson 2014
Spectral evolution

$E_p$ evolution (intensity tracking)
Hardness Intensity correlation (HIC)
Hardness Fluence correlation (HFC)
Pulse width vs Energy; Time lags; etc.

- Dissipative photosphere: details of the dissipative process

- Internal shocks: ✔ - natural qualitative agreement;
  - constraints on microphysics for a quantitative agreement

- Reconnection: ?

Bosnjak & Daigne 2014
Spectral evolution: *Fermi*-GBM bursts

GRB 080825C

GRB 090131

GRB 090618

Lu et al. 2012
Dissipative photosph.: spectral evolution

(Beloborodov 2013)
Dissipative photosph.: spectral evolution

What are the constraints on the dissipative process?

How does the dissipative process adjust its radius to the photospheric radius?

Typical evolution within a pulse

(Beloborodov 2013)
Internal shocks: spectral evolution

Example of a simulated pulse (internal shocks with full radiative calculation)

Light curve in BATSE range: channels 1 (blue) to 4 (red)

(Bosnjak & Daigne 2014)
Internal shocks: spectral evolution

Example of a simulated pulse (internal shocks with full radiative calculation)

Evolution of $E_{\text{peak}}$ and $\alpha$

Time-evolving spectrum

(Bosnjak & Daigne 2014; see also Asano & Meszaros)

Additional PL component with index $\sim -2$ ?
Internal shocks: spectral evolution

Example of a simulated pulse (internal shocks with full radiative calculation)

Slope $\sim 1-1.5$ fixed by shock propagation

Light curve in BATSE range: channels 1 (blue) to 4 (red) (Bosnjak & Daigne 2014; see also Asano & Meszaros)

Pulse width and time lags

Delayed onset ? $\gamma$ ? (Hascoet et al. 2012)
GRB 130427A

Good agreement with internal shock scenario

Preece et al. 2013, see also Piron’s talk

The first 3 s

Time lags

Pulse width (Energy)
Slope $\sim -0.3$

Not shown: hardness-intensity correlation slope 1.4
Distribution of $E_{\text{peak}}$

Hardness-Duration correlation

- Short bursts have usually higher peak energies
  - dissipative photosphere: change in properties of central engine
  - internal shocks: natural explanation
  - reconnection: ?

Kouveliotou et al. 1993

See also Sakamoto’s talk
A short GRB seen by *Fermi/GBM*

![GRB Lightcurves](image)

- **Lightcurves** (photon flux, GBM)
- **Peak energy**

GRB 090227B

(*Fermi/GBM*)

duration $\sim 0.15$ s

- 3 MeV
- 1 MeV

Guiriec et al. 2010
Effect of duration:
- hardness-duration correlation
- lags become short and tend to zero
- pulses become more symmetric

Pulse calculation: the only varying parameter is the duration (Bosnjak & Daigne 2014)
The end of the prompt emission: X-ray early steep decay

- A natural explanation: high-latitude emission from the prompt (fits well XRT data)
  See Willingale’s talk

-(Dissipative) photosphere: ✗ (radius is too small)
-Internal shocks: ✔ (final radius of the order of $\Gamma^2 c t_{\text{burst}}$)
-Reconnection: ✔ ? (final radius ?)

(Page et al. 2007)
High-latitude emission in internal shocks

Final radius of the order of $\Gamma^2 c t_{\text{burst}}$

(Hascoët et al. 2012)
The end of the prompt emission: X-ray early steep decay

- A natural explanation: high-latitude emission from the prompt (fits well XRT data)
  - (Dissipative) photosphere: ✗ (radius is too small)
  - Internal shocks: ✔
  - Reconnection: ✔?

- Alternative explanation: late evolution of the central engine
  - Photosphere: ? (inefficient ?)
  - Dissipative photosphere: ? (constraints on dissipative process ?)
Typical evolution within a pulse

More severe constraint than for the spectral evolution in a pulse

Typical X-ray early steep decay

Dissipative ph.: X-ray early steep decay

(Beloborodov 2013)
In the optical thin scenario (internal shocks or reconnection), photospheric emission is expected, with a brightness depending on the composition of the jet.

- **GBM observations:** weak photospheric emission is detected?

![GRB 100724B](long)

![GRB 120323A](short)

Guiriec et al. (2011)

Guiriec et al. (2013)

- Favors magnetic acceleration, with a range of magnetization in the GRB population, with a hint for a lower magnetization in short GRBs

Photosphere + internal shocks

Initial Lorentz factor

Light curve

Spectrum

Internal shocks

Spectral evolution

Hascoët, Daigne & Mochkovitch 2013
Models vs Observations
Prompt GeV emission
Prompt optical emission
Prompt GeV emission

- There is probably a prompt variable component in the LAT, different from the long lasting emission (external origin).

Strong constraint on the emission radius from $\gamma\gamma$ opacity

- (Dissipative) photosphere: ✗
- Internal shocks: ✔ (IC)
- Reconnection: ?

Additional process is needed (e.g. scattering mechanism proposed by Beloborodov et al.)

See Piron’s talk & Tavani’s talk

$\tau_{var} < 100$ ms
Prompt GeV emission in internal shocks

(Bosnjak & Daigne 2014; see also Asano & Meszaros)
Prompt optical emission

- The prompt optical emission can change a lot from a burst to another
- In optical bright burst, the optical emission is probably variable: internal origin

GRB 080319B @ z = 0.937

- Strong constraint on the radius from the synchrotron self-absorption
  - (Dissipative) photosphere: \( \times \)  Additional process is needed (e.g. mechanism proposed by Beloborodov et al.)
  - Internal shocks: \( \checkmark \) (late collisions)
  - Reconnection: ?
Optical emission from internal shocks

V band

γ-rays

(Hascoët et al. 2011)

(Racusin et al. 2008)
Summary
Summary

Understanding the physical origin of the GRB emission is difficult, especially for the prompt emission.

- **Dissipative photospheres are promising, however:**
  - strong constraints on the unknown dissipation process
  - “complicated” model: different mechanisms for different components in the prompt (soft $\gamma$-rays, optical, GeV)

- **Reconnection above the photosphere looks promising, however:**
  - uncertainties both on the dynamics and the microphysics
  - difficult to conclude without any predictions for the spectrum
  - potential problem with the spectral shape (broadening by multi-emitters)

- **Internal shocks can produce emission from optical to GeV. The model can be explored in details (spectral evolution, etc.). Results are promising, however:**
  - large uncertainties on the microphysics
  - is there a problem with $\alpha$ ? With the efficiency ?
  - is there a problem with the general shape of the spectrum ? (too broad ?)

- **Observations: a better description of the spectral properties is needed** (issues with the present method of analysis, based on the Band model)