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# Are *Swift* Long-Lag Gamma-Ray Bursts in the Local Supercluster?

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## ABSTRACT

A sample of 18 long-lag ( $\tau_{lag} > 1$  s) Gamma-Ray Bursts (GRBs) has been drawn from our catalog of all *Swift* long GRBs. Four different tests are done on this sample to test the prediction that a large fraction of long-lag GRBs are from our Local Supercluster. The results of these four tests come out that: (1) the distribution of these GRBs shows no tendency towards the Supergalactic plane; (2) the distribution shows no tendency towards the Virgo or Coma Cluster; (3) no associated bright host galaxies ( $m \leq 15$ ) in the Local Supercluster are found for any of the 18 GRBs; (4) 17 of these 18 GRBs have redshifts of  $z > 0.5$ , which are too far to be in the Local Supercluster. All these results disproved the hypothesis that any significant fraction of long-lag GRBs are from Local Supercluster. Hence these long-lag GRBs can not be counted in the calculation of LIGO detection rates. An explanation of why we can detect long-lag GRBs at high redshift is presented.

*Subject headings:* gamma rays: bursts

## 1. Introduction

Gamma-Ray Bursts (GRBs) are bursts of gamma radiations that are isotropically distributed on the sky. Their time duration  $T_{90}$  ranges from  $\sim 0.1$  s up to  $\sim 1000$  s, and their measured spectroscopic redshifts range is  $0.008 < z < 6.7$ . Based on the time duration, they are divided into two different groups: GRBs with  $T_{90} < 2$  s are classified as short duration bursts, and those with  $T_{90} > 2$  s as long duration GRBs. The spectral lag ( $\tau_{lag}$ ) of a GRB is a parameter that measures the delay time between the soft and hard light curves of the GRB. The global hard-to-soft spectral evolution of GRB pulses was found by Norris et al. (1986) in analysis of SMM (Solar Maximum Mission satellite) GRB data, and a cross-correlation

analysis between different channels of data for calculating  $\tau_{lag}$  values was performed by Band (1997). A power law function between the  $\tau_{lag}$  value and the peak luminosity ( $L$ ) was well fitted for six BATSE and BeppoSAX long GRBs with measured redshifts (Norris et al. 2000). In the power law function, the  $\tau_{lag}$  is corrected for the cosmological time dilation effect by dividing a factor of  $(1+z)$ . It was also pointed out in the same paper that GRB980425 with a long  $\tau_{lag}$  value ( $\tau_{lag} = 2.8$  s) falls far below the power law fitting curve by a factor of several hundred. The empirical  $\tau_{lag} - L$  relation can be simply explained as a consequence of radiative cooling of the shocked material in the jet (Schaefer 2004). High-luminosity bursts will have fast radiative cooling and hence short lags, while low-luminosity bursts will have slow radiative cooling and hence long lags. This general result predicts that the burst luminosity should be proportional to  $\tau_{lag}^{-1}$  and that is exactly what is observed.

The  $\tau_{lag}$  analysis on BATSE and INTEGRAL samples shows a distribution from  $\sim 0-10$  s for long GRBs (Norris 2002; Foley et al. 2008), with most of these  $\tau_{lag}$  concentrated in the 0 - 1 s region. According to the  $\tau_{lag} - L$  relation, a long  $\tau_{lag}$  corresponds with a low luminosity, and for a low luminosity GRB to be detected by our instruments, it should be relatively nearby. Norris (2002) pointed out that GRB980425 might represent a subclass of long GRBs, with long  $\tau_{lag}$ , soft spectrum, ultra-low luminosity, and nearby. In this case, a possible break might exist in the  $\tau_{lag} - L$  relation in the long  $\tau_{lag}$  region, which would indicate that these long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs are even closer than what is predicted by the  $L \propto \tau_{lag}^{-1}$  relation. Indeed, two long  $\tau_{lag}$  bursts are confidently known to be at distances close enough to be inside the Local Supercluster. GRB980425, with  $\tau_{lag} = 2.8$  s, had an ultra-low luminosity, and lies in a galaxy only  $\sim 38$  Mpc away (Galama et al. 1998). GRB830801, is the all-time brightest GRB yet has a long  $\tau_{lag}$  ( $2.2 \pm 0.2$  s), so a very low redshift of  $z \sim 0.01$  is calculated from the  $\tau_{lag} - L$  relation (Schaefer et al. 2001). GRB830801 also happens to be from a direction close to the Virgo Cluster.

Given that these long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs might be nearby, is there any local structure of galaxies to host these GRBs? The Local Supercluster was proposed by de Vaucouleurs (1953), from an investigation of spatial distribution of galaxies. It was first named as ‘Supergalaxy’, which was later changed to be ‘Local Supercluster’ (de Vaucouleurs 1958). More detailed studies show that the main body of the Local Supercluster is a filamentary structure extending over  $\sim 40 h^{-1}$  Mpc, and is centered on the Virgo Cluster (Tully & Fisher 1987; Karachentsev & Makarov 1996; Lahav et al. 2000). Around 60% of the luminous galaxies in the volume of Local Supercluster are within the structure that defines the plane of the Supercluster (20% in Virgo Cluster and 40% in Virgo II Cloud and Canes Venatici Cloud), and most of the remaining 40% lies within five clouds off the plane, which is called a ‘halo’ (Tully 1982). Our Local Group is in the outskirts of this region.

Norris (2002) presented a catalog of  $\tau_{lag}$  values for 1429 BATSE long GRBs, from which a sample of 64 long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs (with  $\tau_{lag} > 2$  s) was selected. These  $\tau_{lag}$  values were calculated in the observer’s rest frame, without making the time dilation correction (which should be small for local bursts). By plotting these long  $\tau_{lag}$  bursts on a sky map in Supergalactic coordinates, a concentration towards the Supergalactic plane was found, with three-fourth of these bursts located in the half of the sky between  $-30^\circ$  and  $30^\circ$  of Supergalactic latitude. Quantitatively, the quadruple moment of these GRBs is roughly  $-0.10 \pm 0.04$ , which shows a  $2.5\sigma_Q$  deviation from isotropy. This result implies that long  $\tau_{lag}$  value will be an indicator for local GRBs. From the solid long GRB-SN connection (e.g. GRB980425 & SN1998bw, GRB030329 & SN2003dh) and the model of massive SN (from the collapsing in highly non-axisymmetric modes), strong gravitational waves can be produced at a rate of  $\sim 4 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ , and these gravitational waves might be able to be detected by LIGO (Norris 2003).

An independent catalog of long  $\tau_{lag}$  bursts discovered by INTEGRAL has been created by Foley et al. (2008), with 11 long  $\tau_{lag}$  ( $\tau_{lag} > 0.75$  s) GRBs being pulled out from the whole INTEGRAL sample. They found that 10 of the 11 long  $\tau_{lag}$  bursts are located within the  $-30^\circ$  to  $30^\circ$  Supergalactic latitude region. The quadruple moment of the 11 GRBs is  $-0.225 \pm 0.009$ . This result is confirmed by Vianello et al. (2008). By comparing with the simulation based on INTEGRAL sky coverage, the quadruple moment is  $Q = -0.271 \pm 0.089$  for long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs and  $Q = -0.007 \pm 0.042$  for the whole sample. The INTEGRAL result is broadly consistent with the conclusion of Norris (2002), however, in Norris (2002), the quadruple moments for the samples of  $\tau_{lag} > 0.5$  s and  $\tau_{lag} > 1$  s have a substantially lower significance ( $Q = -0.022 \pm 0.020$  for the  $\tau_{lag} > 0.5$  s sample and  $Q = -0.043 \pm 0.026$  for the  $\tau_{lag} > 1$  s sample). With three results on two independent samples (pointing to a concentration towards the Supergalactic plane), another sample is needed to test the Local Supercluster hypothesis.

*Swift*, the multiwavelength GRB detection satellite, was launched Nov. 2004 (Gehrels et al. 2004). It has three instruments on board. The wide field Burst Alert Telescope (BAT), which covers 15 keV to 150 keV energy band, can position a burst to  $1' - 4'$  accuracy. The narrow X-ray telescope (XRT) and UV/Optical telescope (UVOT) will start observing the GRB within  $\sim 100$  s after it is triggered and position it within  $5''$  and  $0.3''$  respectively. Within  $\sim 100$  s, this accurate position of the GRB will be measured and distributed to the community through GRB Coordinate Network (GCN), and large ground telescopes will be able to follow up and make their own observations. During its four years of operation, *Swift* has been triggered by more than 350 GRBs,  $\sim 300$  of which have been confirmed as long duration GRBs, and  $\sim 30\%$  have their spectroscopic or photometric redshift measured. The accurate localizations of *Swift* GRBs make possible the search for hosts of long  $\tau_{lag}$  bursts in Local Supercluster galaxies. The GRB redshift will also directly tell us the distances of

these GRBs.

In this paper, we will use *Swift* data to test the hypothesis that most long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs are in the Local Supercluster. The tests are made of four parts: (1) Is there any tendency of concentration towards the Supergalactic plane? (2) Is there any tendency of concentration towards the Virgo Cluster? (3) Can we find bright host galaxies for these long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs? (4) Do any of these long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs have a redshift of  $z < 0.013$ ?

## 2. *Swift* Data

All *Swift* GRB data are available on the Legacy ftp site<sup>1</sup>, along with the software published by the *Swift* team. BAT light curves for GRBs within any possible energy bands (15 keV to 150 keV) at any possible time bins ( $> 0.064$ s) can be generated. Conventionally, for the calculation of  $\tau_{lag}$ , we use the light curves with 0.064 s time bins and energy bands from 25-50 keV and 100-150 keV. By applying a Cross-Correlation Function (CCF) method on the light curves, and fitting the CCF plot with an automatically selected polynomial function, we calculated the  $\tau_{lag}$  values for all *Swift* long GRBs. Details of our conventional calculation are presented in Xiao & Schaefer (2008). In the same paper, by using the  $\tau_{lag}$  values as well as four other luminosity indicators (variability, minimum rise time  $\tau_{RT}$ , number of peaks  $N_{peak}$  and peak energy in the spectrum  $E_{peak}$ ), we calculated the redshifts for all *Swift* long GRBs completely independent of spectroscopic redshifts. A comparison between our redshifts,  $z_{ind}$ , and spectroscopic redshifts  $z_{spec}$  ( $\chi_{red}^2 = 1.09$ , and  $\langle \log_{10}[z_{ind}/z_{spec}] \rangle = -0.005 \pm 0.050$ ) shows that our reported error bars are reasonably good, and our redshift values are not biased, high or low.

From our *Swift* GRB redshift and luminosity indicators catalog (ranging from Dec. 2004 (GRB041220) to Jul. 2008 (GRB080723A)), 18 GRBs with long  $\tau_{lag}$  values ( $\tau_{lag} > 1$  s) are pulled out. Data for these 18 GRBs are listed in Table 1. Column 1 gives the six digit identification numbers of each GRB. Column 2 listed our measured  $\tau_{lag}$  values with their  $1 - \sigma$  uncertainties. Column 3 gives the spectroscopic redshifts for 6 of these GRBs and our calculated redshifts  $z_{ind}$  with  $1 - \sigma$  uncertainties for the remaining 12. The references for these redshifts are listed in column 4. The celestial right ascension and declination of these GRBs from BAT localizations are listed in columns 5 and 6, and the corresponding latitude and longitude in Supergalactic coordinate systems are listed in columns 7 and 8. The conversion from celestial coordinate system to the Supergalactic coordinate system is

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<sup>1</sup><ftp://legacy.gsfc.nasa.gov/swift/>

done by using the online tools provided on a NASA website<sup>2</sup>. Column 9 lists the galaxy information within the field of the GRBs, with all the references given in column 10. All information of the galaxies are drawn from the reports on GCN Circulars and the Digital Sky Survey<sup>3</sup>. The sky distribution of these long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs in Supergalactic coordinates are plotted in Figure 1. At first glance, there is no tendency of concentration either towards the Supergalactic plane or towards the Virgo or Coma Cluster. More detailed analysis are presented in the next section.

### 3. Four Tests

#### 3.1. Concentration Towards Supergalactic Plane

Our Local Supercluster has a flattened distribution, with 60% of its luminous galaxies in the structure which is called the plane of the Local Supercluster, and the other 40% lies in five clouds off the plane, called the ‘halo’. If long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs reside in galaxies in our Local Supercluster, they will show a tendency of concentration towards the Supergalactic plane.

To quantitatively measure the tendency of the concentration, a quadruple moment of the distribution can be calculated, with  $Q = \langle \sin^2 b - 1/3 \rangle$  and  $\sigma_Q = \sqrt{4/(45N_{GRB})}$  (Briggs et al. 1996), where  $b$  is the latitude of GRBs in Supergalactic coordinate and  $N_{GRB}$  is the number of GRBs. A significant concentration towards the plane will result in a negative Q value, while an isotropic distribution will result in a near-zero Q value. Both the quadruple moments of Norris (2002) ( $Q \sim -0.10 \pm 0.04$ ) and of Foley et al. (2008) ( $Q = -0.225 \pm 0.090$ ) show high significance (with  $|Q| \geq 2.5\sigma_Q$ ) of a concentration towards the Supergalactic plane.

For our long  $\tau_{lag}$  burst sample from *Swift*, by simply counting the number of GRBs, we get only 8 of a total of 18 ( $\sim 44\%$ ) lying between  $-30^\circ$  and  $30^\circ$  in Supergalactic latitude, which is in agreement with the area coverage percentage within the usual uncertainties. The calculated quadruple moment of this distribution is  $Q = -0.02 \pm 0.07$ . It is not significantly negative. Instead, the Q value equals zero within  $1 - \sigma$  uncertainty and this is an indication of a homogeneous distribution. We also raised the lower limit of the ‘long  $\tau_{lag}$ ’ criteria to  $\tau_{lag} > 1.5$  s and  $\tau_{lag} > 2$  s, and calculated the quadruple moment for these subsamples. The results of  $Q = -0.02 \pm 0.08$  for  $\tau_{lag} > 1.5$  s and  $Q = -0.06 \pm 0.09$  for  $\tau_{lag} > 2$  s also show no tendency towards the Supergalactic plane. The samples and our results are shown

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<sup>2</sup>[http://lambda.gsfc.nasa.gov/toolbox/tb\\_coordconv.cfm](http://lambda.gsfc.nasa.gov/toolbox/tb_coordconv.cfm)

<sup>3</sup>[http://archive.stsci.edu/cgi-bin/dss\\_form](http://archive.stsci.edu/cgi-bin/dss_form)

in Table 2. A real-time sky map of *Swift* GRBs<sup>4</sup> shows a nearly isotropic sky distribution for *Swift* bursts, and the quadruple moment for all short  $\tau_{lag}$  ( $\tau_{lag} < 1$  s) long duration GRBs ( $Q = -0.03 \pm 0.02$ ) also shows an isotropic sky distribution, with no tendency either towards or away from the Supergalactic plane. With this, we see that *Swift* has a uniform sky coverage for the purpose of this paper, and so our quadruple moment of the long  $\tau_{lag}$  bursts needs no correction for sky coverage. As such, we find no concentration towards the Supergalactic plane, and the Supergalactic hypothesis fails our first test.

### 3.2. Concentration Towards Virgo or Coma Cluster

The majority of the mass in our Local Supercluster is towards the Virgo Cluster and the Coma Cluster (which is in about the same direction as the Virgo Cluster, but with much larger distance from the Earth). So if these long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs are from the Local Supercluster, there should be a tendency of concentration towards the Virgo and Coma Clusters. A dipole moment can be calculated to quantitatively measure the concentration, with  $D = \langle \cos \theta \rangle$  and  $\sigma_D = \sqrt{1/(3N_{GRB})}$  (Briggs et al. 1996), in which  $\theta$  is the angle between the GRB and the Virgo or Coma Cluster. A concentration towards the Virgo or Coma Cluster will result in a positive dipole moment, while an isotropic distribution would result in a near-zero dipole moment. D values for a majority of long *Swift* GRBs (331 bursts with  $\tau_{lag} < 1$  s) shows no tendency towards or away from Virgo and Coma Clusters, as shown in Table 2. The fact that the dipole for the  $\tau_{lag} < 1$  s bursts is closely zero tells us that the *Swift* sky coverage is sufficiently uniform for the purpose of this paper and no correction to our measured D values is needed.

We calculated the dipole moment of our long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs, towards both the Virgo and Coma Clusters. For the Virgo Cluster, the dipole moments are  $-0.25 \pm 0.14$  for  $\tau_{lag} > 1$  s sample,  $-0.30 \pm 0.15$  for the  $\tau_{lag} > 1.5$  s subsample, and  $-0.28 \pm 0.17$  for the  $\tau_{lag} > 2$  s subsample. While for Coma Cluster, the calculated dipole moments are respectively  $-0.14 \pm 0.14$ ,  $-0.20 \pm 0.15$ , and  $-0.18 \pm 0.17$  for the three cuts on  $\tau_{lag}$ . With the *negative* dipole moments, *Swift* long  $\tau_{lag}$  bursts are showing a tendency *away from* the Virgo and Coma clusters. Hence the hypothesis that these GRBs are from the Local Supercluster fails our second test. By checking Figure 5 in Norris (2002) and Figure 3 in Foley et al. (2008), we do not see any tendency towards the Virgo or Coma Cluster.

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<sup>4</sup><http://grb.sonoma.edu/>

### 3.3. Host Galaxy of these GRBs

As long GRBs are formed by the collapsing of fast-rotating massive stars, they should be located in the star forming region of galaxies (e.g. in the spiral arms of the spiral galaxies), and these galaxies should appear within the small *Swift*-XRT 90% error circles. If these galaxies are members of the Local Supercluster, given the scale of the Local Supercluster ( $\sim 40 h^{-1}$  Mpc), they should be rather nearby, and hence relatively bright. If we adopt the R-band Schechter luminosity function with  $M^* = -21.2$  (for a Hubble constant of  $65 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ ; Lin et al. (1996)), a galaxy in our Local Supercluster with luminosity of  $L^*/10$  will have its absolute magnitude of  $M = -18.7$ . This limit of  $L^*/10$  is somewhat arbitrary, but it does include 90% of the mass in a standard luminosity function. Such a galaxy on the far edge of Local Supercluster (for which we adopt a distance of  $\sim 56$  Mpc) will have an apparent magnitude of  $m = 15.0$  or brighter. An increasing of Hubble constant from  $65 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$  to  $72 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$  will cause a slightly decreasing of the distance, and hence a brighter apparent magnitude for the threshold. As a result, if the long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs reside in our Local Supercluster, we should be able to find their host galaxies with  $m \leq 15$ . That is, any GRB from our Local Supercluster should be immediately obvious by having its bright host galaxy in the *Swift*-XRT error circle.

We checked all the GCN reports regarding to these long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs, and all these 18 GRBs have follow up observations reported except for GRB060607B (which was too close to the Sun). Possible host galaxies are found for GRB050126 and GRB060218, with redshifts of 1.29 and 0.0331. With accurate positions reported by XRT, no galaxies are found to be within the XRT 90% error circles for the remaining 16 GRBs. We also searched through the Digital Sky Survey for the fields of these GRBs, and no galaxies are found to be within the XRT error circle for all of the 18 GRBs in POSS II-F archive, the limit magnitude of which is 20.8. Hence the Supergalactic hypothesis fails this test also.

GRB060218 is a very long and smooth burst with a very long lag (Liang et al. 2006). An optical transient was speedily discovered with UVOT (Marshall et al. 2006) and with ROTSE (Quimby et al. 2006). The burst position is coincident with a nearby galaxy at  $z = 0.0331$  (Mirabal et al. 2006). Later, a supernova (SN2006aj) was found at the same position (Masetti et al. 2006; Soderberg et al. 2006). The position is on the edge of the constellation Taurus, with  $\theta = 128^\circ$  to the Virgo Cluster and  $\theta = 125^\circ$  to the Coma Cluster. For the redshift and a Hubble constant of  $H_0 = 72 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ , the burst is  $\sim 140$  Mpc distant from the Earth. This is close, but certainly outside our Local Supercluster. As such, this long  $\tau_{lag}$  burst is an example of an extremely under-luminous event, but is not associated with any concentration towards the Supergalactic plane.



### 3.4. Redshifts

Given that the distance of galaxies in Local Supercluster are less than 56 Mpc from the Earth (for the Hubble constant  $H_0 = 72 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ ), the corresponding upper limit on the redshift is  $z < 0.013$ . If the long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs are from the Local Supercluster, they should be at redshift  $z < 0.013$  or so.

Of our 18 long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs, 5 have their spectroscopic redshift reported, ranging from 1.29 to 3.08 (as listed in Table 1). These bursts are certainly far outside the Local Supercluster. The redshift of GRB050126 is measured from the spectrum of its host galaxy, while the other 4 are all from multiple absorption lines in the optical afterglow spectra, hence these redshift values are with high confidence. The sixth GRB with a spectroscopic redshift is GRB060218, with  $z = 0.0331$ , which is also too far to be inside our Local Supercluster (see previous section). With six out of six long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs having their spectroscopic redshift much larger than the upper limit redshift of Local Supercluster (0.013), we are very confident to make the conclusion that the Supergalactic hypothesis fails this test also. While for the remaining 12 GRBs without spectroscopic redshifts, our redshift calculated from luminosity indicators  $z_{ind}$  are within the range of 0.6 to 5.0 (Xiao & Schaefer 2008), and the  $1 - \sigma$  lower limit of redshifts for all these GRBs are  $z > 0.5$ . In summary, all these *Swift* long  $\tau_{lag}$  bursts are certainly outside the Local Supercluster, with 17 out of 18 at  $z > 0.5$ . Hence the Supergalactic hypothesis fails the fourth test for all of 18 long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs.

Moreover, if we check the whole *Swift* GRB catalog (with long and short  $\tau_{lag}$  values), it is easy to see that only one of all the GRBs (GRB980425) with reported spectroscopic redshift are close enough to be in our Local Supercluster. The lack of low redshift GRBs in the catalog also indicates that it is impossible to have a large fraction of long  $\tau_{lag}$  of GRBs in Local Supercluster.

## 4. Implications

The Local Supercluster hypothesis strongly failed all of our four tests. Although some small fraction of long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs can still be local (e.g. GRB980425, GRB830801), our analysis on *Swift* data puts a limit of  $< 5\%$  on the fraction of long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs to be in Local Supercluster.

Both the results of Norris (2002) and Foley et al. (2008) show a high significance (with  $|Q| \geq 2.5\sigma_Q$ ) on the tendency of concentration towards the Supergalactic plane, which is not significantly high. Given that BATSE positions have had many selections of GRBs examined for anisotropies in many directions (Briggs et al. 1996), with this large number of trials, we

can expect that some will be significant at this level.

From our analysis, only a small fraction of long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs (less than one out of eighteen or so) could be in the Local Supercluster. Hence, the rate of long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs in the Local Supercluster is greatly smaller than what has been reported by Norris (2003), and should not be included in the calculation of LIGO’s detection rate.

From Table 1 we see that redshifts for these long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs ( $\langle z \rangle = 1.61$ ) are not greatly lower than for other GRBs ( $\langle z \rangle \sim 2.3$ ). From the logic that long  $\tau_{lag}$  corresponds with low luminosity, one might be curious as to how we can detect a  $\tau_{lag} > 1$  s GRB at redshift as high as  $z = 3$ ? GRB980425 is an example of long  $\tau_{lag}$  and low redshift ( $z \sim 0.008$ ) GRB, and it is *very* under-luminous (with its  $\gamma$ -ray peak luminosity  $L = 5.5 \pm 0.7 \times 10^{46}$  erg s<sup>-1</sup> according to Galama et al. (1998)). Of course if we put GRB980425 to the redshift of  $z = 3$ , its luminosity distance will be increasing by a factor of  $\sim 730$ , and its peak flux will be decreasing by a factor of  $5.3 \times 10^5$ . With such a low peak flux, we will definitely not be able to detect it. However, GRB980425 is not a typical GRB. Its energy is much lower than a ‘normal’ GRB, and it falls far below the  $\tau_{lag} - L$  relation curve by a factor of several hundred. GRB980425 might represent a subclass of long GRBs with long  $\tau_{lag}$ , soft spectrum and low luminosity, as suggested by Norris (2002), but with only one example, it is unreasonable for us to take all long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs as ultra-low luminosity bursts.

Consider a ‘normal’ long GRB that has  $\tau_{lag} = 1$  s and redshift  $z = 3$ . Its  $\tau_{lag,rest}$  in the GRB rest frame would be 0.25 s. Assuming that it fits well with the  $\tau_{lag} - L$  relation from Xiao & Schaefer (2008),

$$\log L = 51.31 - 1.02 * \log [\tau_{lag}(1 + z)^{-1}], \quad (1)$$

its luminosity value  $L$  would be  $8.40 \times 10^{51}$  erg s<sup>-1</sup>. From the concordance cosmological model, the luminosity distance  $d_L$  at a given redshift is calculated by

$$d_L(z) = cH_0^{-1}(1 + z) \int_0^z dz' [(1 + z')^3 \Omega_M + \Omega_\Lambda]^{-1/2}. \quad (2)$$

with  $H_0 = 72$  km s<sup>-1</sup> Mpc<sup>-1</sup>,  $c = 3 \times 10^5$  km s<sup>-2</sup>,  $\Omega_M = 0.27$  and  $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.73$ . The luminosity distance for  $z = 3$  is  $d_L \sim 2.5 \times 10^4$  Mpc. Then from the inverse square law for light,  $P = L/(4\pi d_L^2)$ , the bolometric peak flux would be  $P_{bolo} = 1.12 \times 10^{-7}$  erg cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>. From the luminosity and the  $E_{peak} - L$  relation (Xiao & Schaefer 2008)

$$\log L = 47.73 + 1.78 * \log [E_{peak}(1 + z)], \quad (3)$$

a low  $E_{peak}$  value  $E_{peak} \sim 57$  keV can be adopted. From the  $E_{peak}$  and average values of the low-energy power law index  $\alpha = -1.1$  and high-energy power law index  $\beta = -2.2$

(Band et al. 1993), peak flux value in the energy range 15 keV to 150 keV can be calculated, with the result of  $P = 4.93 \times 10^{-8} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , which is  $\sim 0.54 \text{ ph cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . It is significantly higher than the trigger threshold of *Swift*. As a result, there is no doubt that we can detect long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs at a high redshift ( $z=3$ ). Indeed, the long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs at  $z > 1$  are consistent with the unbroken  $\tau_{lag} - L$  relation. Thus, it appears that the ultra-low luminosity ‘class’ of bursts is quite rare (roughly fewer than one-in-nineteen), and the usual  $L \propto \tau_{lag}^{-1}$  relation should be used for normal long  $\tau_{lag}$  bursts with reasonable confidence.

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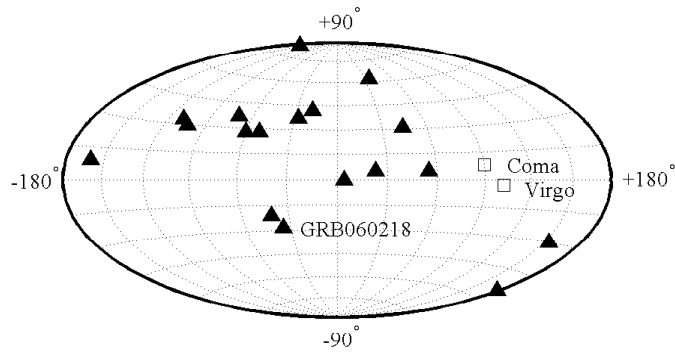


Fig. 1.— Sky distribution of the 18 long  $\tau_{lag}$  *Swift* GRBs, the Virgo Cluster, and the Coma Cluster. The GRBs are marked as filled triangles, and the Virgo and Coma Clusters are marked as empty squares (upper: Coma, lower: Virgo). GRB060218, the Virgo and Coma Clusters are all marked on the right. From this figure we do not see any tendency either towards the supergalactic plane (the horizontal line running through the middle) or towards the Virgo or Coma Clusters.

Table 1. Information of *Swift* long  $\tau_{lag}$  GRBs

GRB	$\tau_{lag}$	Redshift	Ref <sup>a</sup>	RA <sup>b</sup>	Dec <sup>b</sup>	Longitude <sup>c</sup>	Latitude <sup>c</sup>	Galaxy In the Field?	Ref <sup>a</sup>
041228	$4.02 \pm 0.15$	$2.3^{+4.2}_{-1.2}$	1	22:26:34	05:01:55	290:50:01	37:02:09	no galaxy with $m < 20.8$	10
050126	$2.41 \pm 0.08$	1.29	2	18:32:27	42:23:02	35:37:03	62:53:07	host $z = 1.29$	2
050219A	$2.39 \pm 0.17$	$0.6^{+0.2}_{-0.1}$	1	11:05:39	- 40:40:51	154:49:21	-30:46:32	no galaxy with $m < 20.8$	10
050410	$3.32 \pm 0.30$	$1.04^{+5.15}_{-0.32}$	1	05:59:01	79:36:18	23:56:45	05:36:23	no galaxy with $m < 20.8$	10
050716	$4.09 \pm 0.31$	$1.4^{+1.1}_{-0.5}$	1	22:34:22	38:40:58	333:24:23	37:00:24	no galaxy with $m < 20.8$	10
051021B	$1.53 \pm 0.06$	$2.1^{+1.3}_{-0.7}$	1	08:24:14	- 45:32:02	178:59:49	-54:47:23	no galaxy with $m < 20.8$	10
051111	$1.74 \pm 0.07$	1.55	3	23:12:32	18:22:01	309:07:18	28:42:13	no galaxy with $m < 20.8$	10
060218	$177 \pm 16^d$	0.03	4	03:21:31	16:54:36	325:57:54	-28:05:07	host $z = 0.0331$ , $M_V \sim 15.8$ mag	4, 11
060319	$1.19 \pm 0.13$	$2.0^{+1.1}_{-0.6}$	1	11:45:31	60:02:16	55:03:16	05:13:06	no galaxy with $m < 20.8$	10
060403	$1.15 \pm 0.02$	$1.3^{+0.7}_{-0.4}$	1	18:49:21	08:19:37	195:41:24	82:29:38	no galaxy with $m < 20.8$	10
060501	$1.55 \pm 0.25$	$1.8^{+1.0}_{-0.5}$	1	21:53:29	44:00:07	342:50:10	42:54:49	no galaxy with $m < 20.8$	10
060502A	$4.65 \pm 0.16$	1.51	5	16:03:44	66:36:14	44:59:56	31:55:36	no galaxy with $m < 20.8$	10
060607A	$1.34 \pm 0.05$	3.08	6	21:58:49	-22:29:45	257:13:41	30:59:00	no galaxy with $m < 20.8$	10
060607B	$2.98 \pm 0.27$	$1.3^{+0.6}_{-0.4}$	1	02:48:10	14:45:18	319:54:06	-21:51:22	no galaxy with $m < 20.8$	10
070330	$2.48 \pm 0.07$	$2.4^{+1.5}_{-0.8}$	1	17:58:07	-63:47:56	200:08:29	09:44:18	no galaxy with $m < 20.8$	10
070506	$2.28 \pm 0.08$	2.31	7	23:08:48	10:42:39	300:21:59	28:14:04	no galaxy with $m < 20.8$	10
070621	$2.75 \pm 0.37$	$1.5^{+0.7}_{-0.4}$	1	21:35:13	-24:48:32	251:04:31	33:43:47	no galaxy with $m < 21.5$	9
071101	$1.45 \pm 0.01$	$3.7^{+2.9}_{-1.5}$	1	03:12:43	62:31:26	04:05:20	-00:37:40	no galaxy with $m < 20.8$	10

<sup>a</sup>References:—(1) Xiao & Schaefer 2008; (2) Berger et al. 2005; (3) Hill et al. 2005; (4) Mirabal et al. 2006; (5) Cucchiara et al. 2006; (6) Ledoux et al. 2006; (7) Thoene et al. 2007; (8) Jakobsson et al. 2008; (9) Bloom et al. 2007; (10) Digital Sky Survey: [http://archive.stsci.edu/cgi-bin/dss\\_form](http://archive.stsci.edu/cgi-bin/dss_form) (11) Modjaz et al. 2006;

<sup>b</sup>The Right scension and declination values are in the celestial coordinate system.

<sup>c</sup>The longitude and latitude values are in the supergalactic coordinate system.

<sup>d</sup>Value obtained from Liang et al. (2006).

Table 2. Dipole and Quadruple Statistics

Sample	$N_{GRB}$	$Q^a$	D for Virgo <sup>b</sup>	D for Coma <sup>b</sup>
$\tau_{lag} < 1$ s	331	$-0.03 \pm 0.02$	$-0.03 \pm 0.03$	$-0.01 \pm 0.03$
$\tau_{lag} > 1$ s	18	$-0.02 \pm 0.07$	$-0.25 \pm 0.14$	$-0.14 \pm 0.14$
$\tau_{lag} > 1.5$ s	14	$-0.02 \pm 0.08$	$-0.30 \pm 0.15$	$-0.20 \pm 0.15$
$\tau_{lag} > 2$ s	11	$-0.06 \pm 0.09$	$-0.28 \pm 0.17$	$-0.18 \pm 0.17$

<sup>a</sup>The quadruple moment is sensitive to measuring a concentration towards the Supergalactic plane ( $Q \ll 0$ ), while an isotropic distribution yields  $Q \simeq 0$ .

<sup>b</sup>The dipole moment is sensitive to measuring a concentration towards either the Virgo Cluster or the Coma Cluster ( $D \gg 0$ ), while an isotropic distribution yields  $D \simeq 0$ .