

Time-domain Astronomy with Fermi GBM

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The Fermi Gamma-ray Burst Monitor (GBM) is an all-sky monitoring instrument sensitive to energies from 8 keV to 40 MeV. Over the past 8 years of operation, the GBM has detected over 240 gamma-ray bursts per year and provided timely GCN notices with localization to few-degree accuracy for follow-up observations. In addition to GRBs, Galactic transients, solar flares, and terrestrial gamma-ray flashes have also been observed. In recent years we have also been searching the continuous GBM data for electromagnetic counterpart to astrophysical neutrinos and gravitational wave events, as these are believed to be associated with gamma-ray bursts. With continuous data downlink every few hours and a temporal resolution of 2 microseconds, GBM is well suited for observing transients and supporting EM followup in the era of multi-messenger astronomy.



The GBM instrument

- 12 Nal detectors, sensitive from 8 keV to 1 MeV.
- 2 BGO detectors, sensitive from 200 keV to 40 MeV.
- \cdot > 8 steradians field of view and sample entire sky every ~90 minutes.
- 120 distinct triggers are possible, from a combination of 4 energy

Fermi GBM Trigger History							
	GRBs	Particles	■ TGFs	SGRs	Solar flares	Other	
150							
400							
350							
300							
250							

ranges (25+ keV to >300 keV), 10 timescales (16ms - 8.192s).

- Available data products:
 - CTIME data (256ms temporal resolution and 8 energy channels)
 - CSPEC data (4s temporal resolution and 128 energy channels)
 - CTTE data (2µs temporal resolution and 128 energy channels)

Left: GBM detectors on the *Fermi* spacecraft. Detector 0—11 are NaI detectors; detector 12 and 13 are BGO detectors.



Above: Quarterly trigger classification. In addition to GRBs, 47% of triggers are other astrophysical sources and phenomena such as Galactic transients, terrestrial gamma-ray flashes, and solar flares.



- Accreting pulsars are detected by the frequency modulation. Currently monitoring:
 - 8 persistent pulsars
 - 28 transient pulsars

https://gammaray.nsstc.nasa.gov/gbm/science/pulsars.html

Monitoring by Earth Occultation Technique

200+ sources are monitored, from X-ray binaries to Active Galactic Nuclei
102 detections, 9 at >100 keV
https://gammaray.nsstc.nasa.gov/gbm/science/earth_occ.html



121 LAT GRBs

- Over 2000 GRBs have been detected since launching in 2008:
 - ~200 long GRBs /year, massive star collapse
 - ~40 short GRBs /year, compact merger event
 - 13% seen by Swift
 - 52% within *Fermi* LAT FOV, 6% is also seen

Terrestrial Gamma-ray Flashes

- Intense and short (millisecond timescale) gamma rays produced in Earth's atmosphere.
- Associated with electrons accelerating in electric fields at the top of thunderstorm clouds.
- Present in triggered events and dedicated offline data search.
- Online catalog has 4144 TGFs between 2008 and 2016. https://fermi.gsfc.nasa.gov/ssc/data/access/gbm/tgf/

425 Fermi GBM Triggered TGFs through 2014 January







Above: 1084 X-ray bursts detected by GBM between 2010 and 2013 in Galactic coordinates. Purple diamonds are thermonuclear X-ray bursts, detected 1.4 per day at a distance of <10kpc and average blackbody temperature of 3.2 +/- 0.3 keV.

Blue circles are accretion flares and X-ray pulses, many cluster around Sco X-1, A0535+26, and Vela X-1. Green squares are untriggered GRBs.