

Fermi-GBM Observations of GRB 230307A: An Exceptionally Bright Long-Duration Gamma-ray Burst with an Associated Kilonova

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ABSTRACT

18 On March 7th, 2023 the *Fermi* Gamma-ray Burst Monitor observed the second highest fluence
19 gamma-ray burst (GRB) ever, GRB 230307A. With a duration beyond 100 s, GRB 230307A contains
20 a multitude of rapidly-varying peaks, and was so bright it caused instrumental effects in the GBM
21 detectors. The high fluence of this burst, $(6.02 \pm 0.02) \times 10^{-3}$ erg cm $^{-2}$, prompted rapid follow-up
22 across the electro magnetic spectrum including the discovery of an associated kilonova. GRB 230307A
23 is one of a few long GRBs with an associated compact merger origin. Three main temporal regions of
24 interest are identified for fine time-resolution spectral analysis: triggering pulse, main emission, and late
25 emission, and the parameter evolution is traced across these regions. The high flux of the burst allowed
26 for the statistical preference of a more complex, physically-motivated model, the Double Smoothly
27 Broken Power Law, over typical spectral fitting functions for GRBs. From this model the evolution
28 of the parameters was found to be in accordance with those expected for synchrotron radiation in the
29 fast-cooling regime. Additionally, it was found that the flux experiences a steep decline in late time
30 intervals, a feature which is often attributed to high-latitude emission, which follows the dissipation
31 episodes. Furthermore, GRB 230307A was found to have one of the highest inferred bulk Lorentz
32 factors of $\Gamma = 1600$. GRB 230307A is a noteworthy burst in terms of flux alone, but additionally
33 provides a unique insight into the possible temporal and spectral characteristics of a new long merger
34 class of GRBs.

35 *Keywords:* gamma rays: individual (230307A)

1. INTRODUCTION

36 Gamma-Ray Bursts (GRBs) (first reported in Klebe-
37 sadel et al. 1973) are the most luminous explosions in
38 the Universe and are usually divided into two groups

40 based on their duration of prompt emission phase (Deza-
41 lay et al. 1992; Kouveliotou et al. 1993). Short-duration
42 (<2 s) GRBs are predominantly produced by the merger
43 of two compact objects, such as binary neutron stars
44 (BNS) mergers (Narayan et al. 1992; Thompson 1994;
45 Goldstein et al. 2017; Abbott et al. 2017; Fong et al.
46 2015) or neutron star-black hole (NS-BH) mergers (Eich-
47 ler et al. 1989; Nakar 2007), and long-duration (>2 s)

48 GRBs originate from a subtype of core collapse of mas-
 49 sive stars (Woosley 1993; Paczynski 1998; MacFadyen &
 50 Woosley 1999; Woosley & Bloom 2006). The duration
 51 distributions overlap, so occasionally the spectral infor-
 52 mation or the hardness ratio (the ratio of high-energy to
 53 low-energy flux) is used to distinguish between the type
 54 of GRBs (Paciesas et al. 1999; Bhat et al. 2016; von
 55 Kienlin et al. 2020). Kouveliotou et al. (1993) showed
 56 that the hardness ratio of the GRBs is anti-correlated
 57 with their duration; i.e short GRBs (sGRBs) are rela-
 58 tively harder and long GRBs (lGRBs) are observa-
 59 tionally softer. These two parameters are not sufficient to
 60 conclude the physical origin of GRBs alone, but serve as
 61 possible signifiers see e.g. (Zhang et al. 2009; Kann et al.
 62 2011). On the other hand, lGRBs are reliably associated
 63 with Supernovae Ic-BL (Hjorth et al. 2003) and sGRBS
 64 are associated with kilonovae (Tanvir et al. 2013; Yang
 65 et al. 2015; Abbott et al. 2017; Levan et al. 2023; Yang
 66 et al. 2024). Another interesting feature of GRBs is
 67 the variability time-scale. Constraints on the size of the
 68 emitting region can be placed based on causality argu-
 69 ments (Rybicki & Lightman 1979), using the variability
 70 time-scale. The typical short variability time-scale can
 71 be around 10 ms, but in a few cases variability < 10 ms
 72 has been observed (Veres et al. 2023). In the most ex-
 73 treme case, a ~ 200 μ s variation (Bhat et al. 1992) has
 74 been reported. Generally, sGRBs have shorter variabil-
 75 ity than lGRBs (Bhat et al. 2012; Golkhou et al. 2015).

76 The temporal difference between a GRB's light curves
 77 in different energy bands can also help to categorize be-
 78 tween GRBs (Gehrels et al. 2006; Zhang et al. 2006;
 79 Norris & Bonnell 2006). The spectral lag is defined as
 80 positive when high-energy photons precede low-energy
 81 photons. In general, lGRBs show a positive spectral lag
 82 (Cheng et al. 1995; Band 1997; Norris et al. 2000a; Ukwatta et al. 2010), while sGRBs are characterized by
 84 zero spectral lag (Norris et al. 2000a; Ukwatta et al.
 85 2010). In very few cases, GRBs show negative spec-
 86 tral lag, such as GRB 090426C and GRB 150213A,
 87 (Chakrabarti et al. 2018), indicating a soft-to-hard tran-
 88 sition. An anti-correlation has also been observed be-
 89 tween the spectral lag and the peak luminosity (lag-
 90 luminosity relation) (Norris et al. 2000b; Norris 2002;
 91 Ukwatta et al. 2010). This correlation indicates that
 92 spectral lags could be used to determine physical lumi-
 93 nosities of GRBs.

94 A few GRBs have made the picture more compli-
 95 cated. Previously GRB 060614 stood alone as an outlier,
 96 as it had long duration of ~ 102 s but the peak lumi-
 97 nosity and temporal lag fell within the short-duration
 98 GRB subclass (Gehrels et al. 2006). Also, no super-
 99 nova counterpart was found down to very deep optical

100 limits. Ahumada et al. (2021) discovered the shortest
 101 lGRB ($T_{90} \sim 1.14$ s), GRB 200826A, for which optical
 102 and X-ray follow-up observations confirmed an associa-
 103 tion with a collapsar. Conversely, GRB 211211A with
 104 duration $T_{90} = 34.3 \pm 0.6$ s was found to have a kilo-
 105 nova counterpart with a luminosity, duration, and color
 106 similar to that which accompanied the BNS merger de-
 107 tected in gravitational waves GW170817 (Troja et al.
 108 2022; Rastinejad et al. 2022). GRB 211211A also had
 109 a short variability time-scale (Veres et al. 2023). It is
 110 clear that measures of duration and hardness ratio are
 111 not sufficient to classify the progenitors of GRBs.

112 GRB 230307A was an exceptional burst, first reported
 113 by the *Fermi*-GBM (GBM) and was quickly identified to
 114 be one of the brightest GRBs ever observed (Burns et al.
 115 2023). Aside from its large flux, this GRB has many
 116 unique features. Dichiara et al. (2023) have interpreted
 117 the initial soft pulse as a bright precursor. They also
 118 claimed the central engine to be a rapidly rotating mag-
 119 netar with magnetic field $> 10^{15}$ G. An achromatic tem-
 120 poral break in the high-energy band during the prompt
 121 emission phase was reported by Sun et al. (2023). They
 122 claimed the presence of break reveals a narrow jet with
 123 a half opening angle of approximately 3.4° . With the
 124 James Webb Space Telescope mid-infrared imaging and
 125 spectroscopy, Levan et al. (2023) showed the presence
 126 of a kilonova similar to AT2017gfo, associated with
 127 GW170817. They also reported the likely identification
 128 of an atomic line signature of Tellurium and report a
 129 kilonova peak time in infrared at 30 days, both indicative
 130 of rapid neutron-capture nucleosynthesis. This result
 131 is also supported by Gillanders et al. (2023) and Yang
 132 et al. (2024) utilizing additional observations. These
 133 studies indicate that GRB 230307A belongs to the class
 134 of lGRBs associated with compact binary mergers.

135 In this work, we present our analysis of the *Fermi*-
 136 GBM data of GRB 230307A and compare its properties
 137 with other GRBs observed by Fermi. In Section 2 we
 138 explained the details of the observation and our data se-
 139 lection procedure. In Section 3 we present our temporal
 140 and spectral analysis. Section 4 contains discussion and
 141 Section 5 our conclusion.

142 2. OBSERVATION

143 GRB 230307A (GBM burst number 230307656) trig-
 144 gered the *Fermi*-GBM flight software on 2023 March 7
 145 at 15:44:06.67 UTC (t_0). *Fermi*-GBM distributed an au-
 146 tomated localization through the General Coordinates
 147 Network (GCN). The extraordinarily high flux of the
 148 burst was first noted in a GCN by GECAM (Xiong et al.
 149 2023). A secondary manual GCN Circular was sent by
 150 the GBM team to notify the community of this event

and encourage follow-up across all wavelengths (Dalessi & Fermi GBM Team 2023a). Some notable results from follow-up efforts include:

- Multiple rounds of improved localization from the InterPlanetary Network leading to the successful follow-up observations (Kozyrev et al. 2023a,b,c).
- A redshift of 0.065 as first reported by Gillanders et al. (2023).
- Independent observations from the Solar Orbiter STIX (Xiao & Krucker 2023).
- Upper limits of neutrino flux from IceCube (Ice-Cube Collaboration 2023).
- Detection of late time X-ray afterglow by Chandra (Rouco Escorial et al. 2023).
- Serendipitous coverage by TESS and LEIA providing prompt optical and X-ray coverage of a merger for the first time (Vanderspek et al. 2023; Liu et al. 2023).
- Two rounds of observations by the James Webb Space Telescope, confirming an associated kilonova and favoring the nearby distance of the event (Levan et al. 2023a,b).

Fermi-GBM is one of two science instruments onboard the *Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope*, the other being the *Fermi* Large Area telescope (LAT). *Fermi*-GBM was designed to detect and localize bursts in the 8 keV to 40 MeV range (Meegan et al. 2009). *Fermi*-GBM consists of an array of twelve Sodium Iodide (NaI) and two Bismuth Germanate (BGO) detectors for prompt detection of GRBs. The NaI detectors are placed at different orientations around the spacecraft to observe the entire unocculted sky in the 8 keV to 1000 keV energy range. The two BGO detectors observe the 200 keV to 40 MeV energy range and are placed on opposite sides of the spacecraft.

Fermi-GBM produces three sets of data products at differing resolutions that can be used for data analysis: Time-tagged Event (TTE), Continuous Spectroscopy (CSPEC), and Continuous Time (CTIME) data. Both the TTE and CSPEC data sets have a full 128 spectral channel resolution, the TTE has the highest resolution at 2 microseconds, while CSPEC is binned at 1.024 s.

2.1. Data Handling

The high photon flux produced by GRB 230307A created time periods with data issues (i.e. bad time in-

tervals; BTIs)¹, in *Fermi*-GBM data (Dalessi & Fermi GBM Team 2023b). Binned (CSPEC and CTIME) and unbinned (TTE) *Fermi*-GBM data types are affected slightly differently due to how the on-board electronics processes these data types.

Unbinned data experiences issues when the summed count rate of all detectors exceeds the 375 kHz data rate limit of the *Fermi*-GBM high-speed science data bus. Beyond this limit, TTE telemetry packets are lost and the data are irrecoverable (Meegan et al. 2009). The unbinned data loss results in an incorrect inference on brightness, but does not affect spectral behavior. Although this effect is not present for the full BTI of this GRB, it did occur in a few brief instances between t_0+3 and t_0+7 seconds. Binned data does not experience this same irrecoverable packet loss.

For all *Fermi*-GBM data types, higher than normal count rates create dead time which is automatically corrected by the software before generating the resulting *Fermi*-GBM FITS files. This technique is only valid when a single detector experiences input count rates below \sim 60k counts per second (cps). Above this threshold, more complex dead time and pulse pile-up (PPU) effects occur (Meegan et al. 2009). As explained in Chaplin et al. (2013) and Bhat et al. (2014), *Fermi*-GBM data beyond the \sim 60k cps PPU regime distorts both the observed spectral shape and intensity of the data. As reported in Dalessi & Fermi GBM Team (2023b), GRB 230307A experiences PPU between $t_0+2.752$ s to $t_0+10.944$ s. Even with mild PPU, as is the case for GRB 230307A, analyzing the data without correction will misrepresent the true spectrum of the event. A more detailed description of these effects on *Fermi*-GBM data and how to properly correct them can be found in Lesage et al. (2023).

2.2. GBM Data

GRB 230307A was observed by *Fermi*-GBM with significant signal from t_0 until $t_0+95.770$ s and was visible until t_0+128 s when it was occulted by the Earth. The period of time during which 90% of the emission took place, T_{90} , is 34.56 ± 0.57 s. Despite signal being present in all 12 NaI detectors and both BGO detectors, due to the orientation of the burst coming through the bottom of the spacecraft, only detector NA has a detector-source angle of less than 60° . Detector NB has a slightly larger detector-source angle (61°), but is actually blocked by detector NA. Any other detectors had too large detector-source angles or were blocked by the spacecraft itself, so

¹ <https://fermi.gsfc.nasa.gov/ssc/data/analysis/grb230307a.html>

244 only NA and B1 are used for spectral analysis. For the
 245 duration of the detection until occultation, the incident
 246 angle with respect to *Fermi*-LAT was 142°.

247 Preliminary spectral analysis and calculation for the
 248 T₉₀ were done using the RMfit² software and reported
 249 in a GCN Circular (Dalessi et al. 2023). Fine time spec-
 250 tral analysis was conducted using the GBM Data Tools
 251 ³ software. Energy channels in the range of 8-900 keV
 252 for the NaI detectors and 0.3-39 MeV for the BGO de-
 253 tectors were selected. Additionally, the energy channels
 254 between 30-40 keV were excluded due to the Iodine K-
 255 edge at 33.17 keV that can cause significant residuals for
 256 bright sources (Meegan et al. 2009).

297 3. TIME RESOLVED ANALYSIS

298 The lightcurve for GRB 230307A can be seen in Figure
 299 1, where the grey-shaded regions represent the BTI. As
 300 opposed to some GRBs with easily identifiable simple
 301 pulse structures, GRB 230307A exhibits a very complex
 302 lightcurve with many pulses. Hakkila & Preece (2014)
 303 note that GRBs with a multitude of pulses often signify
 304 rapidly-varying emission. Instead of a monotonic overall
 305 hard-to-soft evolution, these many peaks are seen to be
 306 the results of embedded relativistic shock structures.

307 Due to this burst's extraordinarily high count rate, it
 308 is possible to conduct fine-time spectral analysis to track
 309 the evolution of the spectral parameters throughout the
 310 burst. To determine the time intervals, the TTE data
 311 was rebinned based on the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of
 312 100 for the NaI detectors. The SNR=100 was chosen, as
 313 to best match the pulses based on visual inspection. The
 314 temporal binning was based on using the NA lightcurve
 315 in the standard GRB 50-300 keV energy range, as it
 316 encompasses the total spectral evolution across the full
 317 duration of the burst. A minimum bin width constraint
 318 of 100 ms was placed to ensure a sufficient number of
 319 counts per bin to constrain spectral fits in order to cap-
 320 ture spectral evolution. If spectral parameters could not
 321 be constrained within a 30% error, the minimum bin
 322 width was increased by increments of 200 ms and then
 323 2 s for later time bins. Spectral modeling was performed
 324 with a minimum temporal bin constraint to ensure suffi-
 325 cient photon counts, as SNR can be insufficient for time-
 326 resolved spectroscopy due to background fit fluctuations.
 327 The definition of naming convention for periods as well
 328 the time ranges that correspond to which minimum bin
 329 width can be found in Table 1 and is visually represented
 330 in Figure 1.

Interval	Minimum bin duration	Time range (s)
Triggering Pulse	100 ms	-0.064-0.355
Main Emission	300 ms	0.355-2.752
	CSPEC- 1.024 s	2.752-10.944
	300 ms	10.944-13.712
BTI	500 ms	13.712-17.264
	500 ms	17.264 - 19.604
	1 s	19.604- 21.652
Late Emission	3s	21.652- 36.965
	5 s	36.965-128.000
Tail		

Table 1. Definition of periods of interest and the minimum bin duration for specified time ranges, relative to t_0 .

291 3.1. Spectral Fitting

292 While conducting preliminary spectral analysis it was
 293 found that the standard one-component models used
 294 in the GBM Spectral catalogs (Poolakkil et al. 2021):
 295 Band, Compton, Power Law, and Smoothly Broken
 296 Power Law, were insufficient in describing the full spec-
 297 trum of this burst. These models either returned un-
 298 constrained fit parameters or residuals greater than
 299 3σ . Therefore, a selection was made to use the Dou-
 300 ble Smoothly Broken Power Law (2SBPL) that Ravasio
 301 et al. 2018 defined as:

$$N_E^{2SBPL} = A E_{\text{break}}^{\alpha_1} \left[\left[\left(\frac{E}{E_{\text{break}}} \right)^{-\alpha_1 n_1} + \left(\frac{E}{E_{\text{break}}} \right)^{-\alpha_2 n_1} \right]^{\frac{n_2}{n_1}} \right. \\ \left. + \left(\frac{E}{E_j} \right)^{-\beta n_2} \cdot \left[\left(\frac{E_j}{E_{\text{break}}} \right)^{-\alpha_1 n_1} + \left(\frac{E_j}{E_{\text{break}}} \right)^{-\alpha_2 n_1} \right]^{\frac{n_2}{n_1}} \right]^{-\frac{1}{n_2}}, \quad (1)$$

303 where

$$E_j = E_{\text{peak}} \cdot \left(-\frac{\alpha_2 + 2}{\beta + 2} \right)^{\frac{1}{(\beta - \alpha_2) n_2}}. \quad (2)$$

304 The free parameters for this form are the amplitude A ,
 305 the break energy E_{break} , the peak energy E_{peak} , the
 306 photon index below the break α_1 , the photon index
 307 between the break and the peak α_2 , the high energy
 308 photon index β , and the smoothness parameters n_1 and
 309 n_2 . The smoothness parameter $n_1 = 5.38$ was fixed for
 310 the break energy, which corresponds to a sharper cur-
 311 vature around the break and was the mean value of the
 312 distribution when n_1 was left to vary in Ravasio et al.
 313 2018. Additionally, $n_2 = 2.69$ was fixed for the cur-
 314 vature around the peak energy which is derived from
 315 the smoothness parameter $\Lambda = 0.3$ used in the *Fermi*-
 316 GBM catalog (Kaneko et al. 2006). Furthermore, the
 317 constraint was added that $\alpha_1 > \alpha_2$ to aid in the con-
 318 vergence of the model fit parameters and be in accor-
 319 dance with the physical interpretation of the 2SBPL,
 320 and $E_{\text{break}} > 10$ keV to match the minimum bandpass
 321 limit of *Fermi*-GBM.

² <https://fermi.gsfc.nasa.gov/ssc/data/analysis/rmfit>

³ <https://fermi.gsfc.nasa.gov/ssc/data/analysis/gbm/>

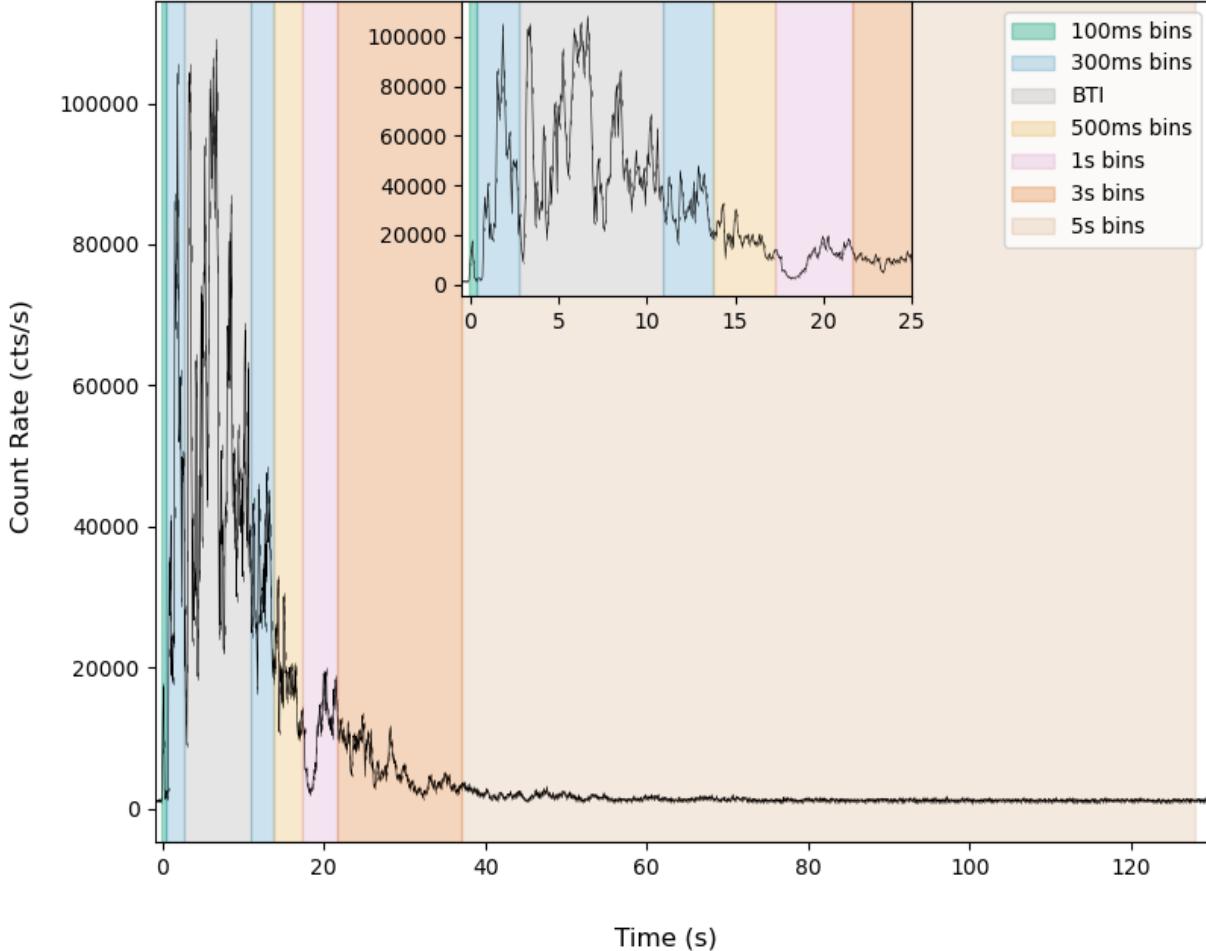


Figure 1. Plot of the GRB 230307A lightcurve of the NaI detector with variable signal-to-noise (SNR) binning minimum widths. The different colored regions represent the different temporal resolutions of the bins.

324

3.2. Triggering Pulse

325 The initial triggering pulse ($t_0-0.064 - t_0+0.355$ s), is
 326 more prominent in the lower energies (8-300 keV) as
 327 shown in Figure 2. A further study of this triggering
 328 pulse by Dichiara et al. 2023, found that the lower flux,
 329 soft spectrum, and delay with respect to the onset of the
 330 main emission were consistent with features of a GRB
 331 precursor. They found that the spectra for this precur-
 332 sor was best fit by a Band model, although a more com-
 333 plex Band + Blackbody fit was also well constrained,
 334 but was not statistically preferred to the Band model
 335 fit. Spectral fitting conducted in our study over this
 336 time range using Band, Band+Blackbody, and Multi-
 337 color Blackbody did not show sufficient evidence for a
 338 thermal component.

339

3.3. Main Emission and Pulse Pile-Up Correction

340 The main emission of the burst lasts from $t_0+0.355-$
 341 $t_0+17.264$ s and covers the brightest part of the burst
 342 consisting of multiple pulses. Due to the high variability
 343 and multitude of peaks, the TTE data is binned to 300 ms
 344 for the beginning of the BTIs and switched to 500 ms as
 345 the overall count rate and variability begins to decrease
 346 (Table 3). In the PPU region, a correction was applied
 347 to CSPEC data assuming the 2SBPL model. These cor-
 348 rections resulted in an increase of the photon flux on
 349 the order of 5%. Spectral fits in the BTI region should
 350 be treated with caution as they were made under the
 351 assumption that the 2SBPL is the true spectrum. The
 352 PPU correction is model-dependent and may result in
 353 a different flux if a photon model other than 2SBPL is
 354 used.

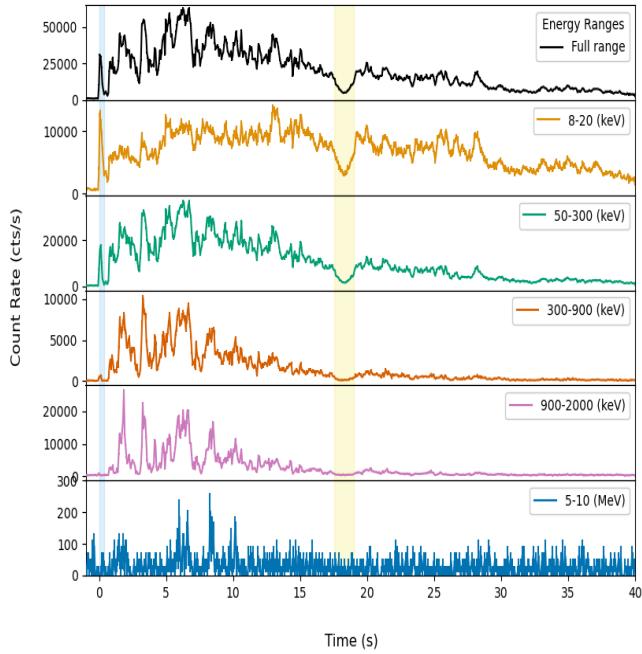


Figure 2. Lightcurve of GRB 230307A split in five different energy ranges. The top panel shows the full energy range, while the second and third panels cover the energy ranges observed by the NaI detectors. The fourth, fifth, and sixth panels show the energy ranges of the BGO detectors. The two highlighted regions indicate the triggering pulse and dip respectively.

3.4. The Dip

Beyond the primary emission episode, an additional period of interest is identified for further analysis: the parabolic “dip” ($t_0+17.264$ s - $t_0+19.604$ s) (Figure 2). The dip is a feature that is not only present in the *Fermi*-GBM lightcurve, but is seen in the observations of AGILE/MCAL (Casentini et al. 2023a,b), GRBAlpha (Dafcikova et al. 2023), VZLUSAT-2 (Ripa et al. 2023), Konus-Wind (Svinkin et al. 2023), AstroSat (Katoch et al. 2023) and NuSTAR (Grefenstette 2023). Therefore, the dip is not likely due to instrumental effects and is instead a property of GRB 230307A itself.

The dip exhibits persistent temporal features across a wide range of energies. In the *Fermi*-GBM data, the dip is clearly prominent as low as 8 keV and up to around 2 MeV as highlighted in Figure 2. However, the dip is not present in the LEIA lightcurve in the 0.5-4 keV range (Sun et al. 2023). Due to the highly symmetrical appearance of the dip, a simple parabola is a good fit for the data across all energy ranges and observations. Using the bounds set by the time bins established by the SNR, the dip was found to have a duration of

2.62 s. In the 8-50 keV range the parabola has a curvature coefficient (represent the percentage change in the count rates) of 58.5 ± 7.1 %, in the 50-300 keV range the curvature is 78.53 ± 5.2 %, in the 300-900 keV range the curvature is 20.5 ± 1.3 %, and in the 900-2000 keV range the curvature is 15.1 ± 4.1 %. The largest change is seen in the 50-300 keV range with an almost 80% decrease in counts during the dip.

3.5. Late Emission and Tail

The late emission of the burst lasts from $t_0+19.02$ to $t_0+95.770$ s with a significant signal. There is a weaker tail extending out to 128 s when the burst was occulted by Earth. During the late emission, there are a few smaller peaks and variability until around 30 seconds, and then there is a steady decay. Due to the high flux of this burst and subsequent scaling of the lightcurves this time region in Figure 1 appears relatively flat, but it is still well above the count rates seen for a typical GRB.

4. DISCUSSION

4.1. Evolution of Spectral Parameters

The results of the fine time spectral analysis are shown in Figure 3, with the spectral parameters overplotted on the lightcurve of GRB 230307A to show the spectral evolution. The gray shaded region represents the BTI and the pulse pile-up corrected spectral values are also shown. The E_{peak} parameter tracks the lightcurve, with a maximum of $E_{peak} = 1348^{+28}_{-25}$ keV during the 5.824-6.848 s time bin. This maximum value is in agreement with the peak energy of 1321^{+60}_{-62} keV as reported by Konus-Wind (Svinkin et al. 2023). E_{break} reaches a maximum of $E_{break} = 624.2^{+20.8}_{-20.2}$ keV in the 1.726-2.034 s time bin and then decreases as a function of time. This evolution is consistent with the observed behavior of these parameters (e.g. Lu et al. 2012). E_{peak} tracks the photon count rate (intensity tracking), and E_{break} shows the overall hard to soft spectral evolution. Notably, during the dip region, there is a decrease and then subsequent increase for both E_{peak} and E_{break} .

Figure 4 shows the distribution of the α_1 , α_2 , and β parameter values for the different regions of the burst. The values for α_1 are distributed around the expected value of $-2/3$ as predicted for synchrotron emission, with a mean of -0.553 and a standard deviation of 0.152 . The values for α_2 have a mean of -1.460 and a standard deviation of 0.181 and are also in agreement with the predicted value of $-3/2$ (fast cooling regime), though the main emission episode is less consistent with fast cooling compared to the other episodes. The β parameter

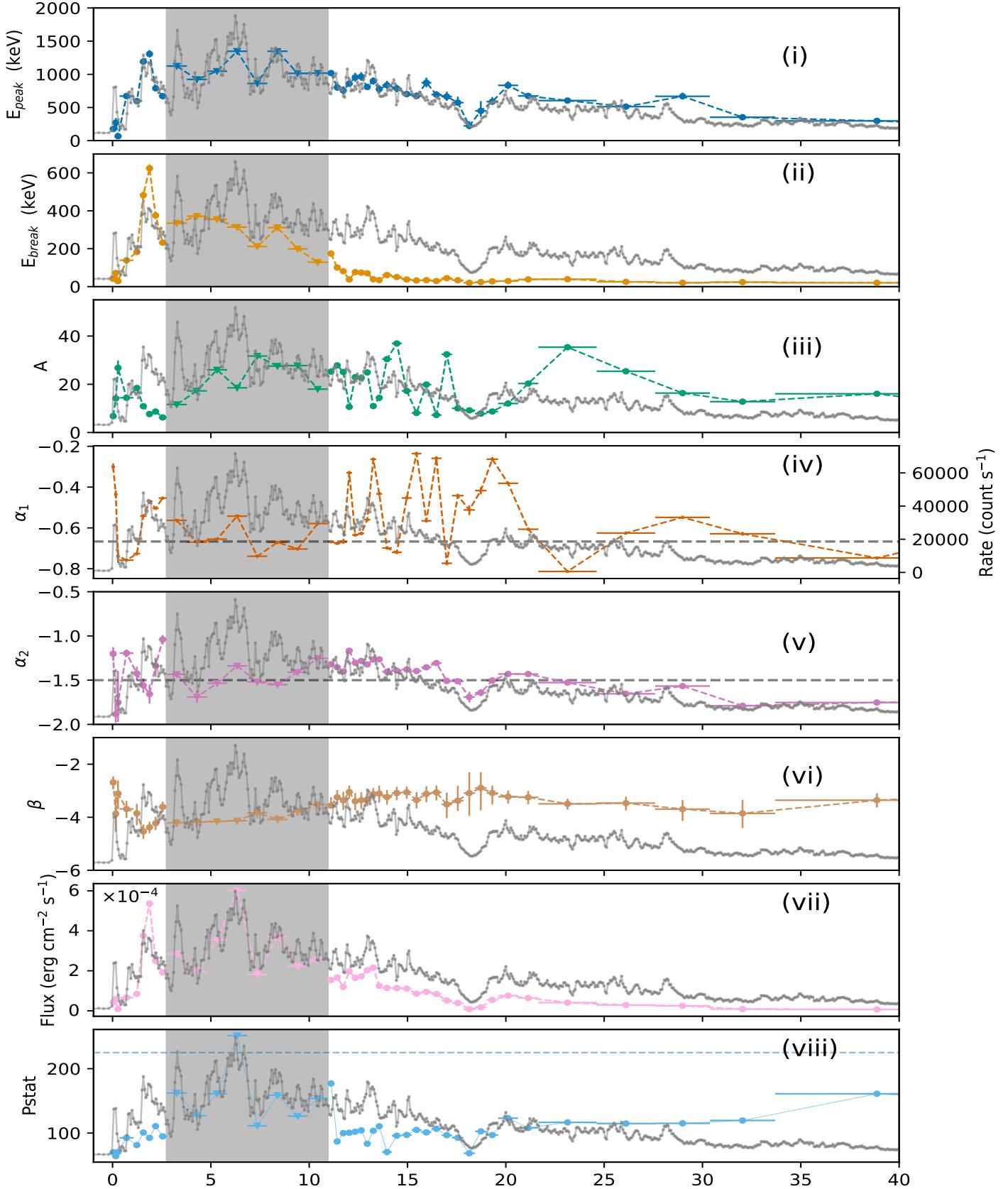


Figure 3. Spectral parameters of the 2SBPL for each of the 45 source intervals compared to the lightcurve. Horizontal bars represent the duration of the time range for which the spectral fit was conducted. Each of the parameters is presented in their own panel: (i) is the peak energy; (ii) is the break energy (iii) is the normalization constant; (iv-vi) are the three photon indices where the horizontal dashed lines indicate the expected values for synchrotron emission; (vii) is the calculated flux; and (vii) is the fitting statistic from the likelihood function where the horizontal dashed line represents the degrees of freedom.

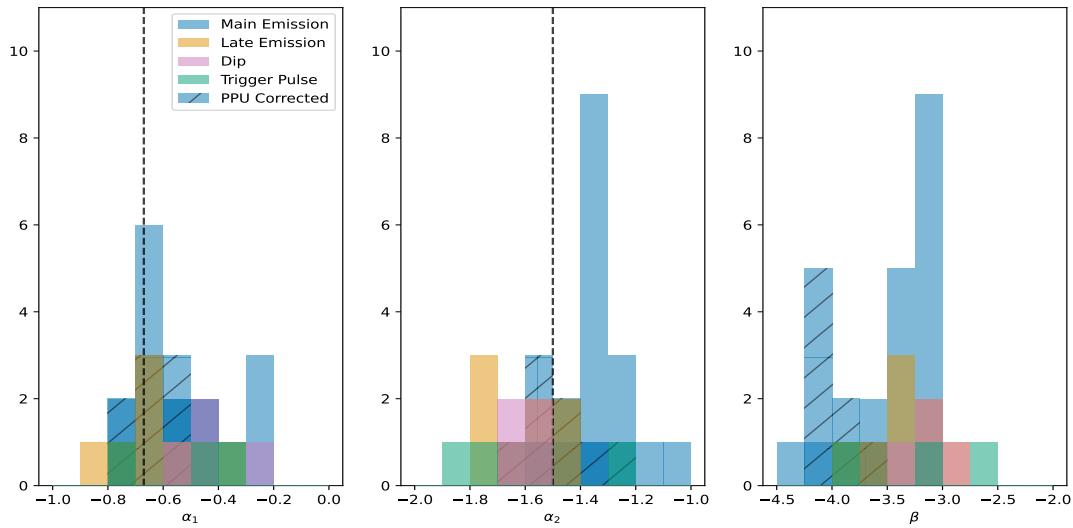


Figure 4. Distribution of α_1 , α_2 and β parameters for all spectral fits. Vertical dashed lines represent the predicted values for synchrotron emission of $\alpha_1 = -2/3$ and $\alpha_2 = -3/2$ in the fast cooling regime.

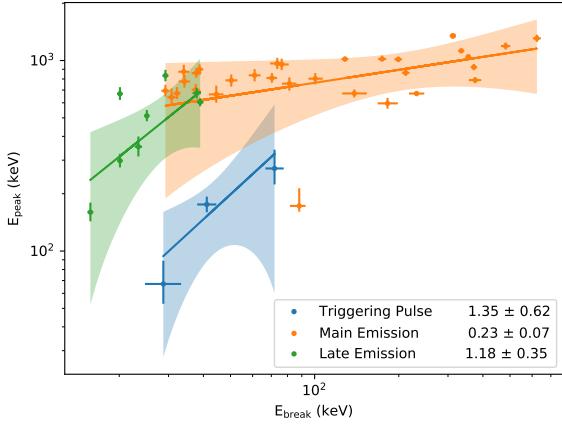


Figure 5. Correlation between peak energy E_{peak} and break energy E_{break} for 2SBPL. The values from the triggering pulse, the main emission, and the late emission are shown. Power-law indices are shown in the legend.

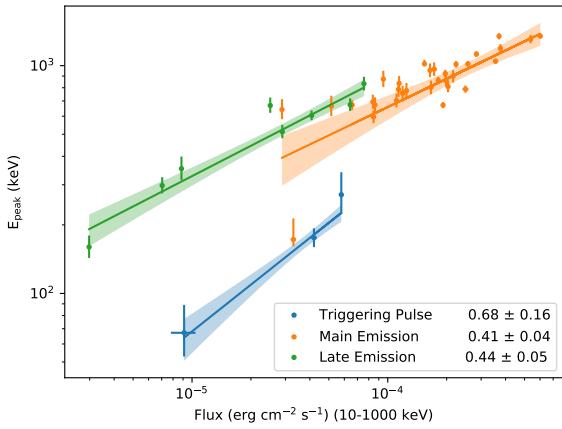


Figure 6. Correlation between peak energy E_{peak} and flux for 2SBPL. The values from the triggering pulse, the main emission, and the late emission are shown. Power-law indices are shown in the legend.

426 has its distribution centered at a mean of 3.498 and a
427 standard deviation of 0.440.

428 The correlation between E_{peak} and E_{break} can be seen
429 in Figure 5, where the differing time regions of the trig-
430 gering pulse, main emission, and secondary emission are
431 highlighted. There is a clear difference in the slopes of
432 the power law fits for the main and late emissions, with
433 the late emission being much steeper. After the dip, the
434 values for E_{break} move below 30 keV. Figure 6 shows
435 the correlation between E_{peak} and flux, which behave
436 in a similar way for the main and late emission, with
437 the trigger pulse being more distinct. The main and
438 late emission regions have a similar slope of increase in

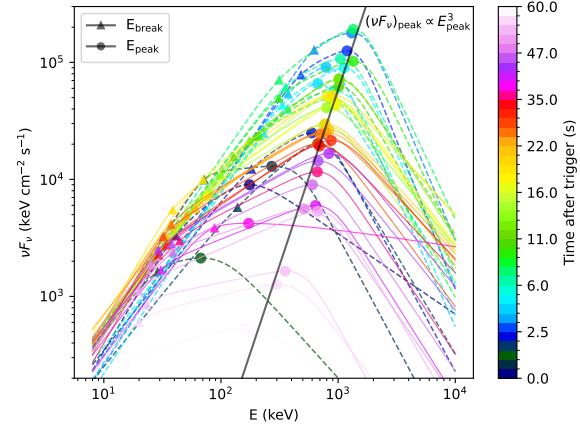


Figure 7. Combined νF_ν spectra for each fitted interval. Colors indicate the time, triangles mark E_{break} , circles mark E_{peak} . Dashed lines show spectra up to $t < 10$ s, solid lines after. Black line shows the $\nu F_\nu \propto E^3$ relation.

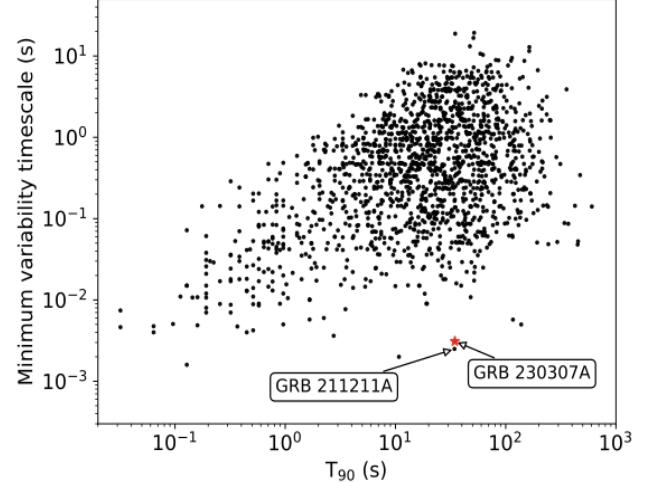


Figure 8. MVT values as compared to T_{90} for all *Fermi*-GBM GRBs with well measured T_{90} and MVT. GRBs 211211A and 230307A, both long bursts with associated kilonovae, appear right near each other and away from the main distribution.

439 flux, while the triggering pulse shows a much steeper
440 increase. Figure 7 shows the temporal evolution of the
441 νF_ν spectra for each fitted interval. Excluding the trig-
442 gering pulse interval it is found that νF_ν is proportional
443 to E^3 .

444 4.2. Temporal Properties: Spectral Lag and Minimum 445 Variability Timescale

446 The spectral lag measures the time offset between
447 lightcurves in two energy bands: 8-25 and 50-300 keV.
448 In practice, it is found that there is a time offset between

the two lightcurves. The spectral lag is potentially an indication of the progenitor of the GRB sGRBs have lags consistent with zero, whereas lGRBs have positive lags (Norris et al. 2000a; Becerra et al. 2023). With positive lag the harder energy band leads the softer band. Calculating the lag over the entire duration of the burst, it is found to be -0.0164 ± 0.0196 s. This value is consistent with zero which is typical of short GRBs. Additionally, the lag is found to be consistent with zero if it is measured in the pre-dip and post-dip time intervals and also in across the different energy ranges. Wang et al. (2023) also found spectral lags consistent with zero for three time intervals: $t_0 + 0.2 - 0.4$ s, $t_0 + 0.4 - 3.0$ s, and $t_0 + 7.0 - 40$ s.

The minimum variability timescale (MVT) represents the shortest timescales in which variations of a GRB lightcurve can be observed. Veres et al. (2023) analysis of GRB 211211A noted that the MVT emerged as a possible discriminator for long duration GRBs with merger origin. A sample of 10 lGRBs with short MVTs < 15 ms were found, though only three bursts GRBs, 090720B, 210410A, and 080807, remained as possible candidates after excluding three known bright bursts from supernovae and four bursts whose lightcurves did not show the three emission episode morphology. GRB 230307A shows remarkable similarities with GRB 211211A in both their lightcurve morphology and MVT values. The MVT for GRB 230307A is 3.1 ± 0.7 ms, while GRB 211211A has a MVT of 2.6 ± 0.9 ms (Veres et al. 2023), which places both bursts at the lower extreme of the MVT distribution for both lGRBs and sGRBS (Figure 8). This further supports the notion of short MVTs being used as an indirect indication that the GRB is of merger origin.

4.3. Lorentz Factor

Given the short variability timescale, a lower limit is first placed on the Lorentz factor. Assuming gamma-rays are emitted through internal shocks (Rees & Meszaros 1994), the Lorentz factor of the outflow can be constrained by requiring that the internal shocks occur above the photosphere. Thus, the internal shock radius ($R_{\text{IS}} \approx 2\Gamma^2 c \delta t$) must be larger than the photospheric radius ($R_{\text{ph}} \approx \sigma_T L / 8\pi m_p c^3 \Gamma^3$). The limit on the Lorentz factor in this scenario becomes:

$$\Gamma > \left(\frac{\sigma_T L}{16\pi m_p c^4 \delta t_{\text{var}}} \right)^{1/5} = 170 \left(\frac{L_{\text{tot}}}{5 \times 10^{52} \text{ erg s}^{-1}} \right)^{1/5} \left(\frac{\delta t_{\text{var}}}{3.1 \text{ ms}} \right)^{1/5} \quad (3)$$

Note that this limit is only meaningful for high luminosities or very short variability timescales. Here $L_{\text{tot}} = L_{\gamma}/\eta = 1.3 \times 10^{52} \text{ ergs}^{-1}$ is the total luminosity and η is the gamma-ray efficiency, assumed to be 20%.

4.4. Interpretation as Fast Cooling Synchrotron

The α_1 and α_2 indices are consistent with the expectation from fast cooling synchrotron emission. In this picture, the $\alpha_1 \approx -2/3$ below the first break corresponds to the slope of individual electron's synchrotron emission. The $\alpha_2 \approx -3/2$ corresponds to the spectrum produced by electrons injected into the emitting region with random Lorentz factor γ_m and cooling on a timescale that is short compared with the dynamical timescale of the system. The expression of the flux density: $F_{\nu} \propto E N_E \propto d\gamma_e/dE \propto E^{-1/2}$ (equivalent to $\alpha_2 = -3/2$) where γ_e is the electron's random Lorentz factor, E represents the photon energy. N_E is the photon number spectrum and all the fitted indices are in this representation. The last step in the above equation was derived utilizing the expression of the typical synchrotron frequency of electrons with γ_e which is $E(\gamma_e) \propto \gamma_e^2$ (Cohen et al. 1997).

Having established that the spectral indices are consistent with the synchrotron fast cooling scenario, E_{break} represents the cooling frequency (E_c) and E_{peak} is the typical or injection frequency (E_m) of the synchrotron-emitting electron population. Using these characteristic frequencies of the spectrum throughout the GRB, the physical parameters of the outflow can be constrained.

Following Kumar & McMahon (2008), equations are inverted for E_c , E_m , and $F_{\nu}(E_c)$ and the physical parameters (Lorentz factor Γ , radius R , magnetic field B) of the emission region are derived (see also Beniamini & Piran 2013). For synchrotron emission,

$$E_m \propto B \Gamma \gamma_e^2, F_{\nu, \text{pk}} \propto B N \gamma D_L^{-2}, \text{ and} \\ E_c \propto B^{-3} \Gamma^{-1} \Delta t^{-2} (1 + Y)^{-2} \quad (4)$$

where Δt is the integration time, N is the number of radiating particles, and D_L is the luminosity distance. In these calculations, the Compton parameter, Y , defined as the ratio of the photon and magnetic field energy densities, is left as a variable. At high energies, there is no detection of any extra spectral components, indicating the inverse Compton contribution that scales with Y is small, $Y < 1$. Assuming the power law index of the accelerated electron distribution is p ($dN_e/d\gamma_e \propto \gamma_e^{-p}$) can be calculated from the photon index above E_{peak} . Thus $N_E \propto E^{\beta} \propto E^{-(p+2)/2}$, or simply $\beta = -(p+2)/2$.

Substituting the spectral parameters during the brightest part (2.75-10.94 s), and making the conser-

tative assumption that Δt duration is twice the width of the bins, an average Lorentz factor of

$$\Gamma \approx 1600 \left(\frac{F_{Ebreak}}{86 \text{ mJy}} \right)^{1/8} \left(\frac{E_{break}}{330 \text{ keV}} \right)^{1/8} \left(\frac{E_{peak}}{1100 \text{ keV}} \right)^{3/16} \left(\frac{\Delta t}{1 \text{ s}} \right)^{-3/8} \left(\frac{t_a}{0.5 \text{ s}} \right)^{1/4} Y^{-3/16} \left(\frac{1+Y}{2} \right)^{1/4}. \quad (5)$$

540
 541 In the above formula, representative values for the
 542 brightest part of the GRB are included. t_a is the time
 543 available for electrons to cool, taken as the temporal
 544 bin width (Kumar & McMahon 2008). The standard
 545 deviation of the Lorentz factor (calculated from differ-
 546 ent values in different time-bins) is $\sigma_\Gamma = 260$. Using
 547 the variability timescale, this translates to an emission
 548 radius of

$$R \approx 2\Gamma^2 c \delta t_{\text{var}} = 9.4 \times 10^{14} \left(\frac{\Gamma}{1600} \right)^2 \left(\frac{\delta t_{\text{var}}}{3.1 \text{ ms}} \right) \text{ cm} \quad (6)$$

550 The magnetic field is constrained to $\log_{10}(B/[G]) =$
 551 2.71 ± 0.15 or $B \approx 510$ G.

553 The simple fireball dynamics suggests there is a max-
 554 imal attainable Lorentz factor (see however Ioka 2010;
 555 Mészáros & Rees 1997, for extremely high Lorentz fac-
 556 tors). The jet starts accelerating at a radius R_0 . The
 557 smallest value for this radius can be taken as the in-
 558 nermost stable circular radius of the black hole cen-
 559 tral engine of mass M_{BH} , e.g. $R_0 = 6M_{BH}G/c^2 =$
 560 $2.7 \times 10^6 (M_{BH}/3M_\odot)$ cm. The acceleration ceases
 561 when the Lorentz factor reaches the saturation value
 562 $\eta = L_{tot}/\dot{M}c^2$ at a radius $R_{sat} = R_0\eta$, where L_{tot} is
 563 the total luminosity, \dot{M} is the mass accretion rate in
 564 the jet. The Lorentz factor will be highest if the pho-
 565 tosphere occurs approximately at the saturation radius.
 566 By equating $R_{sat} = R_{phot}$, we get:

$$567 \quad \Gamma_{\max} \approx \left(\frac{L_{\text{tot}} \sigma_T}{4\pi m_p c^3 R_0} \right)^{1/4} \quad (7)$$

$$568 \quad \approx 1700 \ L_{\gamma,52}^{1/4} \left(\frac{\eta_{\text{eff}}}{0.2} \right)^{-1/4} \left(\frac{M_{BH}}{3M_{\odot}} \right)^{-1/4} \quad (8)$$

569 This limit is remarkably close to the derived average of
 570 1600, suggesting an extreme GRB. The launching radius
 571 R_0 can also be associated with the observed variability
 572 timescale or $R_0 = c\Delta t = 9 \times 10^7 (\Delta t / 3.1 \text{ ms}) \text{ cm}$. This
 573 yields a maximum Lorentz factor of ≈ 900 , marginally
 574 inconsistent with value of 1600. This inconsistency could
 575 mean that the variability timescale in the BTI region
 576 would be even lower than the 3.1 ms measured outside of
 577 the BTI. Alternatively, it could mean that the observed

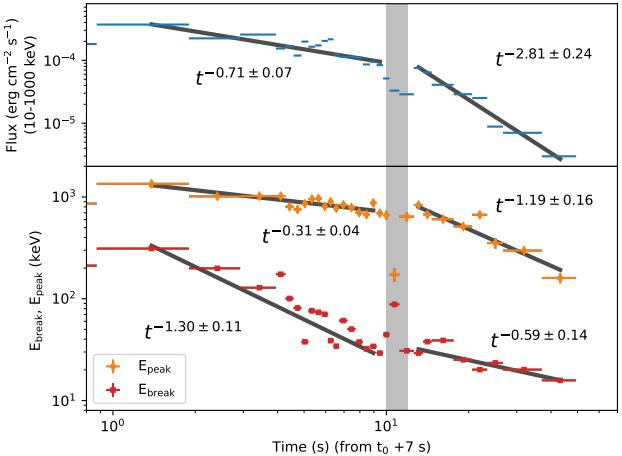


Figure 9. The power law indices of E_{peak} (orange) show an initial shallower decline, steepening after the dip, while E_{break} (red) begins steeper and becomes shallower. The steep decline of the flux after the dip is reminiscent of HLE.

578 variability is not imprinted on the lightcurve close to
579 the central engine, but it originates further out at the
580 dissipation site.

4.5. Late Emission and High Latitude Emission

582 The time evolution of E_{break} , E_{peak} and the flux show
 583 remarkable trends. Their time evolution consists of
 584 piecewise power laws (Figure 9), and the peak of the
 585 νF_ν spectrum is approximately proportional to E_{peak}^3
 586 throughout the burst (Figure 7).

587 The temporal power law slopes are sensitive to the
 588 choice of start time. For GRBs, the start time is typi-
 589 cally taken as the trigger time, however in some cases the
 590 time of the last significant emission period can be used.
 591 Because of the relatively long duration of this burst and
 592 prolonged emission episodes, latter approach is chosen
 593 and the start time is shifted to $t_0 + t_{\text{shift}}$ s in Figure 9
 594 when fitting the time evolution. $t_{\text{shift}} = 7\text{s}$ is chosen as
 595 it corresponds to the last major emission episode (Fig-
 596 ure 1), noting that this shift is in the middle of the BTI
 597 region.

598 As noted, the dip (Section 3) is another striking feature of this GRB. It is found that it coincides with breaks
 599 in the evolution of the flux, E_{peak} and E_{break} (Figure 9).
 600 This change in evolution suggests that the dip is not simply a pause in the otherwise continuous string of pulses,
 601 but has a physical cause.

Prior to the dip, E_{peak} decays slowly ($t - t_{\text{shift}}$) $^{-0.31 \pm 0.07}$ with a mean of 900 keV. After the dip, E_{peak} decays at a steeper rate as ($t - t_{\text{shift}}$) $^{-1.19 \pm 0.16}$ (Figure 9). E_{break} values vary around 300 keV with no pronounced trend up to t_{shift} , where E_{break} starts a steep drop, ($t - t_{\text{shift}}$) $^{-1.30 \pm 0.11}$ until the dip, then it fol-

610 lows a shallower decay, $(t - t_{\text{shift}})^{-0.59 \pm 0.14}$. The flux, 611 integrated over 10-1000 keV decreases from t_{shift} to the 612 dip as $F \propto (t - t_{\text{shift}})^{-0.71 \pm 0.07}$, then transitions in to a 613 steeper decay, $F \propto (t - t_{\text{shift}})^{-2.81 \pm 0.24}$ after the dip. 614

615 One of the possible interpretations of the different be- 616 havior pre and post-dip is that the dip marks the end of 617 the prompt emission and the start of the afterglow. The 618 temporal power-law indices of E_{break} and E_{peak} evolu- 619 tion are broadly consistent and are within model expec- 620 tations for afterglow $E_c \propto t^{-1/2}$ and $E_m \propto t^{-3/2}$ respec- 621 tively (e.g. Sari et al. 1998). However, the flux decays so 622 fast $\propto (t - t_{\text{shift}})^{-2.8}$, that it is impossible to reconcile 623 with the model expectation of $\propto t^{-1/4}$. The afterglow 624 was observed to fade rapidly and be exceedingly faint 625 compared to expectations for a long burst this bright in 626 prompt emission (Gillanders et al. 2023).

627 The steep decay of E_{break} or E_c starts from t_{shift} and 628 lasts until the dip. Up to this time, energy was con- 629 tinuously injected into the emission site, γ_c remained 630 constant, but as the injection stopped, the electron pop- 631 ulation responsible for the break in the spectrum started 632 shifting to lower values. The cooling break energy corre- 633 sponds to a synchrotron-emitting electron, that loses its 634 energy (cools) on the dynamic time of the shell, $t'_{\text{dyn}} = 635 R/\Gamma c$. The corresponding synchrotron timescale and fre- 636 quency are: $t'_{\text{syn}} = \gamma_e/(d\gamma_e/dt) = 3\gamma_e c^2/\sigma_T B^2 \gamma_e^2$, and 637 $\nu_{\text{syn}}(\gamma_e) = q_e/(2\pi m_e c) B \Gamma \gamma_e^2$ respectively.

638 Keeping only the relevant variables, the cooling ran- 639 dom Lorentz factor can be written $\gamma_c \propto \Gamma B^{-2} R^{-1}$ and 640 utilizing the relations in Equation (4) the cooling energy 641 will scale as:

$$642 E_c \propto \Gamma B \gamma_c^2 \propto \Gamma^3 B^{-3} R^{-2}. \quad (9)$$

643 The injection break will scale as $E_m \propto \Gamma B \gamma_m^2$. The 644 luminosity of a population of electrons scales as the flux 645 and it is proportional to $L \propto \Gamma^2 B^2 \gamma_m^2$.

646 The prompt emission happens in the coasting phase 647 of the jet evolution, where Γ is approximately constant. 648 Thus, the emission radius will be proportional to time, 649 $R \propto t$. There are multiple ways to treat the evolution of 650 the magnetic field in the literature e.g. assuming the flux 651 freezing limit $B \propto R^{-2}$ (Dermer 2004). Uhm & Zhang 652 (2014) take a more general approach and parametrize 653 the evolution of the magnetic field as a power law with 654 index q : $B \propto R^{-q}$, starting at the emission radius. In 655 the simplest model, the injection Lorentz factor (γ_m) 656 remains constant. This is almost consistent with the 657 observations, as E_m is changing slowly, as $\propto t^{-0.3}$. To 658 allow for this change, the evolution of $\gamma_m \propto t^{-m}$ is pa- 659 rameterized. Using these dependencies, it can be found 660 such that $E_c \propto t^{3q-2}$, $E_m \propto t^{-q-2m}$ and $F \propto t^{-2q-2m}$. 661 From observations from $t_{\text{shift}} = 7s$ to the dip, it is de-

	$E < E_{\text{break}}$	$E_{\text{break}} < E < E_{\text{peak}}$	$E_{\text{peak}} < E$
	1	2	3
α_h	1.61 ± 0.13	2.61 ± 0.13	4.42 ± 0.26
α_{meas}	1.12 ± 0.20	2.66 ± 0.21	4.44 ± 0.55

Table 2. Table of expected temporal decay indices in the 2SBPL and the measured temporal indices representative of the three power law segments related to the HLE.

661 rived that $E_c \propto t^{-1.3}$, $E_m \propto t^{-0.3}$ and $F \propto t^{-0.7}$. 662 The solution of this over-determined set of equations is 663 $m \approx 0.04$ and $q \approx 0.29$, which offers a consistent picture 664 of the evolution of the synchrotron parameters.

665 The steep decline of the flux ($F \propto (t - t_{\text{shift}})^{-2.81 \pm 0.24}$) 666 is reminiscent of observations by Swift XRT where a 667 steep decline in flux is observed after the end of the 668 prompt emission phase for numerous GRBs (Nousek 669 et al. 2006; Zhang et al. 2006; Grupe et al. 2013). This 670 is widely attributed to the high latitude emission (HLE) 671 (Kumar & Panaiteescu 2000; Dermer 2004). In this sce- 672 nario, the emission region stops emitting and delayed 673 emission from progressively larger latitudes of the jet 674 is observed. Considering a power law spectrum with 675 spectral index β_h ($F_\nu \propto t^{-\alpha_h} \nu^{-\beta_h}$), the HLE predicts 676 a temporal evolution index $\alpha_h = 2 + \beta_h$. HLE is usu- 677 ally identified in X-rays, in the integrated 0.3-10 keV 678 band flux. Because the spectra of GRB 230307A is com- 679 posed of three power law segments and it displays strong 680 spectral evolution, the HLE closure relation is tested for 681 the three spectral regimes, defined by (1) $E < E_{\text{break}}$, 682 (2) $E_{\text{break}} < E < E_{\text{peak}}$, and (3) $E > E_{\text{peak}}$ separately. 683 In this notation, the spectral index of the low energy 684 segment of the 2SBPL is $\beta_{h1} = -(\alpha_1 + 1)$, in the mid- 685 segment it is $\beta_{h2} = -(\alpha_2 + 1)$ and in the highest energy 686 segment $\beta_{h3} = -(\beta + 1)$. Thus, the expected temporal 687 decay indices are $\alpha_{h\{1,2,3\}} = 2 + \beta_{h\{1,2,3\}}$.

688 The slopes of the flux density lightcurves for rep- 689 resentative energies of the three power law segments, 690 $E_{\{1,2,3\}} = \{20, 300, 1000\}$ keV, are the measured tem- 691 poral indices are α_{meas} . Table 2 shows that α_{meas} are in 692 reasonable agreement with $\alpha_{h\{1,2,3\}}$, thus it is concluded 693 that the interval after the dip and until the last GBM 694 detection is well described by the high latitude emission.

695 Assuming that the late emission is due to the high 696 latitude effect, it can used it to constrain the emission 697 radius. For the HLE, $\Delta t_{\text{tail}} = R_\gamma \theta^2/2c$, where Δt_{tail} is 698 the duration of the HLE emission, R_γ is the radius of the 699 gamma-ray emission, and theta is the angle ($\theta > \Gamma^{-1}$) 700 from where the late photons are emitted.

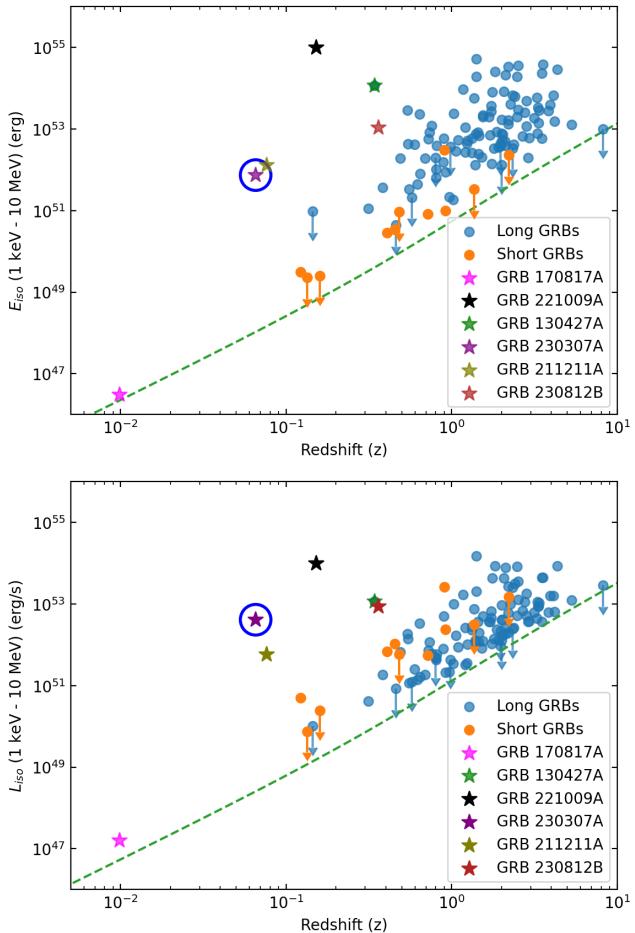
701 Taking $\Delta t_{\text{tail}} > 76$ s (19 to 95 s) to include both late 702 emission and the tail, and assuming $\theta = 10^\circ$, the radius

703 of emission of gamma-rays can be constrained:

$$704 \quad R_\gamma > 1.5 \times 10^{14} \left(\frac{\Delta t_{\text{tail}}}{76 \text{ s}} \right) \left(\frac{\theta}{10^\circ} \right)^{-2} \text{ cm.} \quad (10)$$

705 This is consistent with the radius estimate from the syn-
706 chrotron modeling from Equation (6).

707 4.6. In Context of Other GRBs



708 **Figure 10.** Distribution of calculated E_{iso} and L_{iso} values for
709 all *Fermi*-GBM GRBs with well-measured redshifts through
710 2017 (Abbott et al. 2017) and updated with measurements
711 from Poolakkil et al. (2021). Notable GRBs are highlighted.

712 The fluence of GRB 230307A was measured to be
713 $(6.020 \pm 0.021) \times 10^{-3} \text{ erg cm}^{-2}$ in the 10-10,000 keV
714 band, which makes it only second to GRB 221009A
715 (Burns et al. 2023). Using the reported redshift of
716 $z=0.065$ for the host galaxy (Gillanders et al. 2023)
717 the total isotropic-equivalent gamma-ray energy of GRB
718 230307A calculated in the 1-10,000 keV range is $E_{\text{iso}} =$
719 $(6.973 \pm 0.016) \times 10^{52} \text{ erg}$. The peak luminosity cal-
720 culated on the 64 ms timescale is $L_{\text{iso},64\text{ms}} = (1.225 \pm$

721 $0.008) \times 10^{52} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$. These values for fluence, E_{iso} , and
722 L_{iso} are in agreement with those reported by Konus-
723 Wind (Svinkin et al. 2023). Figure 10 places the E_{iso}
724 and L_{iso} values for GRB 230307A within a distribution
725 of *Fermi*-GBM GRBs.

726 The inferred Lorentz factor of $\Gamma = 1600$ for GRB
727 230307A is one of the highest calculated Lorentz factors
728 for any GRBs. Ghirlanda et al. (2018) looked at sample
729 of 66 long GRBs and one short with known redshifts and
730 a sample of an additional 85 GRBs with known afterglow
731 onset times and found a range of $200 < \Gamma < 700$ with
732 a median value of $\Gamma \sim 300$. Veres et al. (2023) found
733 $\Gamma \approx 900$ for GRB 211211A. Another method for deriving
734 the Lorentz factor is the requirement that high energy
735 (typically GeV range) photons can escape the emission
736 site. The one short GRB was GRB 090510 which was
737 found to have a lower limit at $\Gamma \geq 1200$ (Ackermann
738 et al. 2010). Other large Lorentz factor for GRBs in-
739 clude GRB 090423 with $\Gamma \sim 1100$ (Ruffini et al. 2014),
740 GRB 080916C and GRB 090902B with $\Gamma = 887$ and
741 $\Gamma = 867$ respectively (Ackermann et al. 2012). Beni-
742 amini & Piran (2013) suggest that synchrotron modeling
743 allows for a large range of Γ ($300 < \Gamma < 3000$).

744 The temporal and spectral similarities between GRB
745 230307A and GRB 211211A are numerous: overall pulse
746 structures, short MVT, similar T_{90} , redshift, close E_{iso} ,
747 and L_{iso} values. Both bursts are also two of the bright-
748 est observed by *Fermi*-GBM and the second and third
749 nearest with confirmed redshifts. It is difficult to say if
750 these similarities are possible traits of this long merger
751 class or coincidence of the two observed GRBs. Peng
752 et al. (2024) explored a significant number of tempo-
753 ral and spectral properties of both GRBs, including the
754 three emission phase structure, their respective positions
755 along the Amati relation, and the photospheric emis-
756 sions. Further searches into other possible long mergers,
757 such as in Veres et al. (2023) have proposed a few pos-
758 sible candidates, but a more in-depth exploration using
759 updated commonalities should be conducted.

760 5. SUMMARY

761 GRB 230307A is the second of the brightest and sec-
762 ond closest GRBs ever observed and allows for an un-
763 precedented look into a burst that defies the current
764 GRB duration-based classification scheme. This work
765 reports the unified evolution of GRB 230307A with the
766 pulse pile-up corrected data for fine time spectral anal-
767 ysis. Using the 2SBPL model, spectral parameters were
768 found that were consistent with the expected values for
769 synchrotron emission in the fast cooling regime. Addi-
770 tionally, it was noted that the relationships of E_{peak} and
771 E_{break} can be used to constrain the physical parameters

768 of the outflow and result in one of the highest calculated Lorentz factors of $\Gamma = 1600$ for any GRB. The 769 variation in the flux at the later time intervals exhibits 770 characteristics attributed to high latitude emission. 771

772 The evidence of a short MVT of 3.1 ± 0.7 ms and 773 spectral lags consistent with zero further support the 774 merger interpretation of GRB 230307A. While both 775 GRB 211211A and GRB 230307A first had their merger 776 origin suggested by later observations of associated kilo- 777 novae, they exhibit similarities in MVT, spectral lags, 778 and light curves with extended emission episodes. It can 779 be proposed that these features could be used to distin- 780 guish merger-origin GRBs regardless of their duration. 781 It is of note that both of these GRBs are among the 782 brightest and most fluent of *Fermi*-GBM GRBs, and 783 there may be more long-duration GRBs from mergers 784 that have not been identified. The spectral and tempo- 785 ral properties, such as the MVT, spectral lag, and three

786 emission phase structure of GRB 230307A suggest the 787 need for a new classification system to better classify 788 between GRBs produced by massive core collapse and 789 those produced by compact binary mergers.

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Table 3. Double Smoothly Broken Power Law Fitting

Time (s)	E_{peak}	E_{break}	α_1	α_2	β	A	P_{stat}/DoF
-0.064-0.128	175.62 ^{+17.55} _{-15.83}	41.14 ^{+3.36} _{-3.14}	-0.301 ^{+0.016} _{-0.017}	-1.202 ^{+0.076} _{-0.079}	-2.687 ^{+0.231} _{-0.257}	6.805 ^{+0.418} _{-0.404}	70/225
0.128-0.202	271.29 ^{+69.15} _{-47.60}	71.88 ^{+5.62} _{-5.20}	-0.436 ^{+0.019} _{-0.020}	-1.884 ^{+0.168} _{-0.099}	-3.867 ^{+0.644} _{-0.688}	14.149 ^{+1.143} _{-1.083}	64/225
0.202-0.355	67.19 ^{+21.87} _{-14.32}	28.75 ^{+4.53} _{-4.04}	-0.738 ^{+0.034} _{-0.034}	-1.751 ^{+0.355} _{-0.222}	-3.108 ^{+0.494} _{-0.580}	26.799 ^{+3.094} _{-2.728}	71/225
0.355-1.064	671.91 ^{+33.36} _{-32.16}	138.63 ^{+15.00} _{-13.14}	-0.758 ^{+0.007} _{-0.007}	-1.194 ^{+0.040} _{-0.041}	-3.688 ^{+0.304} _{-0.337}	14.410 ^{+0.455} _{-0.455}	93/225
1.064-1.404	595.99 ^{+40.62} _{-37.05}	182.32 ^{+16.17} _{-14.19}	-0.726 ^{+0.008} _{-0.008}	-1.424 ^{+0.076} _{-0.076}	-3.854 ^{+0.359} _{-0.445}	18.466 ^{+0.715} _{-0.699}	81/225
1.404-1.726	1191.28 ^{+52.28} _{-49.18}	482.36 ^{+18.95} _{-18.21}	-0.542 ^{+0.004} _{-0.004}	-1.560 ^{+0.080} _{-0.083}	-4.536 ^{+0.262} _{-0.280}	10.906 ^{+0.264} _{-0.256}	101/225
1.726-2.034	1307.51 ^{+57.56} _{-53.04}	624.18 ^{+20.83} _{-20.17}	-0.469 ^{+0.004} _{-0.004}	-1.657 ^{+0.108} _{-0.109}	-4.380 ^{+0.215} _{-0.224}	7.653 ^{+0.171} _{-0.167}	93/225
2.034-2.347	789.23 ^{+29.08} _{-28.49}	375.18 ^{+19.40} _{-18.76}	-0.504 ^{+0.005} _{-0.005}	-1.338 ^{+0.091} _{-0.123}	-4.225 ^{+0.241} _{-0.261}	8.686 ^{+0.235} _{-0.232}	111/225
2.347-2.752	671.00 ^{+21.22} _{-20.46}	231.56 ^{+15.20} _{-13.96}	-0.454 ^{+0.005} _{-0.005}	-1.040 ^{+0.049} _{-0.057}	-3.611 ^{+0.196} _{-0.201}	6.246 ^{+0.168} _{-0.163}	95/225
BTI							
2.752-3.776	1124.73 ^{+30.65} _{-29.90}	334.71 ^{+8.57} _{-8.14}	-0.563 ^{+0.003} _{-0.003}	-1.434 ^{+0.030} _{-0.030}	-4.209 ^{+0.154} _{-0.154}	11.601 ^{+0.169} _{-0.175}	162/225
3.776-4.800	923.31 ^{+35.76} _{-33.53}	371.32 ^{+9.99} _{-9.70}	-0.669 ^{+0.003} _{-0.003}	-1.690 ^{+0.054} _{-0.063}	-4.181 ^{+0.152} _{-0.180}	17.272 ^{+0.285} _{-0.289}	127/225
4.800-5.824	1046.74 ^{+27.08} _{-26.30}	354.72 ^{+8.08} _{-8.13}	-0.655 ^{+0.002} _{-0.002}	-1.535 ^{+0.033} _{-0.033}	-4.160 ^{+0.125} _{-0.133}	25.992 ^{+0.335} _{-0.338}	161/225
5.824-6.848	1348.00 ^{+27.96} _{-24.77}	313.61 ^{+6.51} _{-5.65}	-0.542 ^{+0.002} _{-0.002}	-1.339 ^{+0.019} _{-0.016}	-4.131 ^{+0.106} _{-0.116}	18.538 ^{+0.205} _{-0.205}	251/225
6.848-7.872	862.50 ^{+31.38} _{-30.96}	211.74 ^{+6.84} _{-6.36}	-0.739 ^{+0.003} _{-0.003}	-1.520 ^{+0.029} _{-0.027}	-3.833 ^{+0.131} _{-0.205}	31.705 ^{+0.517} _{-0.522}	111/225
7.872-8.896	1347.62 ^{+39.87} _{-43.67}	311.43 ^{+6.61} _{-7.16}	-0.671 ^{+0.002} _{-0.003}	-1.551 ^{+0.021} _{-0.025}	-4.082 ^{+0.155} _{-0.131}	27.544 ^{+0.361} _{-0.366}	159/225
8.896-9.920	1014.56 ^{+32.65} _{-33.22}	199.08 ^{+6.25} _{-6.09}	-0.703 ^{+0.003} _{-0.003}	-1.411 ^{+0.022} _{-0.021}	-3.789 ^{+0.140} _{-0.158}	27.748 ^{+0.428} _{-0.436}	126/225
9.920-10.944	1018.06 ^{+29.24} _{-28.32}	128.36 ^{+3.65} _{-3.56}	-0.579 ^{+0.003} _{-0.003}	-1.252 ^{+0.013} _{-0.014}	-3.520 ^{+0.121} _{-0.136}	17.980 ^{+0.276} _{-0.264}	154/225
10.944-11.274	1018.80 ^{+42.26} _{-24.68}	174.30 ^{+5.91} _{-5.52}	-0.668 ^{+0.004} _{-0.003}	-1.319 ^{+0.020} _{-0.018}	-3.561 ^{+0.322} _{-0.058}	25.257 ^{+0.465} _{-0.341}	177/234
11.274-11.577	803.09 ^{+56.49} _{-53.47}	100.53 ^{+6.41} _{-5.55}	-0.676 ^{+0.007} _{-0.007}	-1.354 ^{+0.030} _{-0.029}	-3.247 ^{+0.270} _{-0.284}	27.843 ^{+0.879} _{-0.864}	87/225
11.577-11.889	756.20 ^{+60.37} _{-60.98}	81.21 ^{+4.93} _{-4.79}	-0.669 ^{+0.008} _{-0.008}	-1.401 ^{+0.030} _{-0.031}	-3.363 ^{+0.325} _{-0.358}	25.093 ^{+0.885} _{-0.855}	100/225
11.889-12.185	859.29 ^{+52.00} _{-48.25}	37.74 ^{+1.56} _{-1.42}	-0.330 ^{+0.008} _{-0.009}	-1.167 ^{+0.015} _{-0.016}	-3.050 ^{+0.244} _{-0.257}	10.626 ^{+0.326} _{-0.321}	101/225
12.185-12.494	953.90 ^{+68.99} _{-62.92}	76.23 ^{+4.57} _{-4.30}	-0.635 ^{+0.008} _{-0.008}	-1.303 ^{+0.023} _{-0.023}	-3.398 ^{+0.311} _{-0.337}	22.936 ^{+0.749} _{-0.722}	102/225
12.494-12.799	965.19 ^{+68.14} _{-63.56}	73.49 ^{+4.39} _{-4.17}	-0.627 ^{+0.007} _{-0.008}	-1.283 ^{+0.022} _{-0.022}	-3.357 ^{+0.297} _{-0.324}	22.648 ^{+0.723} _{-0.717}	104/225
12.799-13.108	809.61 ^{+49.57} _{-44.73}	70.34 ^{+3.07} _{-3.08}	-0.560 ^{+0.006} _{-0.007}	-1.322 ^{+0.020} _{-0.021}	-3.329 ^{+0.240} _{-0.252}	24.934 ^{+0.686} _{-0.699}	83/225
13.108-13.409	899.29 ^{+55.95} _{-55.27}	38.75 ^{+1.21} _{-1.19}	-0.264 ^{+0.008} _{-0.008}	-1.266 ^{+0.015} _{-0.015}	-3.129 ^{+0.230} _{-0.238}	10.962 ^{+0.313} _{-0.307}	104/225
13.409-13.711	776.29 ^{+62.83} _{-55.98}	34.23 ^{+1.63} _{-1.58}	-0.433 ^{+0.010} _{-0.010}	-1.265 ^{+0.019} _{-0.019}	-3.106 ^{+0.300} _{-0.346}	14.359 ^{+0.519} _{-0.499}	111/225
13.711-14.201	836.27 ^{+64.50} _{-58.44}	61.00 ^{+3.05} _{-2.93}	-0.698 ^{+0.007} _{-0.007}	-1.405 ^{+0.021} _{-0.021}	-3.237 ^{+0.265} _{-0.290}	30.436 ^{+0.881} _{-0.854}	70/225
14.201-14.708	786.94 ^{+57.96} _{-57.59}	50.32 ^{+2.58} _{-2.39}	-0.720 ^{+0.007} _{-0.007}	-1.392 ^{+0.017} _{-0.022}	-3.088 ^{+0.236} _{-0.268}	36.938 ^{+1.052} _{-1.004}	96/225
14.708-15.209	702.08 ^{+50.84} _{-46.96}	37.55 ^{+1.28} _{-1.25}	-0.453 ^{+0.008} _{-0.008}	-1.379 ^{+0.017} _{-0.017}	-3.061 ^{+0.228} _{-0.247}	17.265 ^{+0.484} _{-0.471}	97/225
15.209-15.707	672.99 ^{+52.81} _{-44.27}	32.19 ^{+0.91} _{-0.95}	-0.236 ^{+0.009} _{-0.009}	-1.397 ^{+0.017} _{-0.018}	-3.349 ^{+0.298} _{-0.319}	8.128 ^{+0.253} _{-0.238}	105/225
15.707-16.211	873.28 ^{+76.53} _{-68.25}	34.04 ^{+1.53} _{-1.48}	-0.565 ^{+0.009} _{-0.009}	-1.355 ^{+0.017} _{-0.017}	-3.117 ^{+0.288} _{-0.318}	19.900 ^{+0.626} _{-0.613}	101/225
16.211-16.728	693.88 ^{+52.19} _{-47.03}	29.25 ^{+0.99} _{-0.96}	-0.259 ^{+0.009} _{-0.010}	-1.306 ^{+0.017} _{-0.017}	-3.064 ^{+0.260} _{-0.296}	7.247 ^{+0.234} _{-0.226}	107/225
16.728-17.264	664.19 ^{+74.02} _{-63.45}	44.48 ^{+2.67} _{-2.62}	-0.773 ^{+0.010} _{-0.010}	-1.508 ^{+0.026} _{-0.027}	-3.516 ^{+0.445} _{-0.520}	32.428 ^{+1.171} _{-1.160}	97/225
17.264-17.849	573.06 ^{+91.31} _{-46.69}	33.41 ^{+1.04} _{-1.88}	-0.442 ^{+0.009} _{-0.014}	-1.512 ^{+0.025} _{-0.027}	-3.376 ^{+0.558} _{-0.390}	10.021 ^{+0.341} _{-0.441}	93/225
17.849-18.434	223.09 ^{+70.97} _{-50.22}	19.73 ^{+1.36} _{-1.43}	-0.512 ^{+0.023} _{-0.025}	-1.691 ^{+0.058} _{-0.062}	-3.090 ^{+0.787} _{-0.857}	9.198 ^{+0.648} _{-0.651}	69/225
18.434-19.019	449.00 ^{+146.45} _{-89.39}	23.54 ^{+1.27} _{-1.26}	-0.417 ^{+0.017} _{-0.018}	-1.642 ^{+0.039} _{-0.039}	-2.895 ^{+0.597} _{-0.845}	7.850 ^{+0.448} _{-0.423}	103/225
19.019-19.604	588.58 ^{+68.55} _{-50.50}	27.68 ^{+0.85} _{-0.84}	-0.263 ^{+0.010} _{-0.011}	-1.504 ^{+0.020} _{-0.021}	-3.088 ^{+0.279} _{-0.434}	8.718 ^{+0.288} _{-0.290}	97/225
19.604-20.623	833.50 ^{+59.84} _{-55.13}	29.26 ^{+0.74} _{-0.72}	-0.381 ^{+0.007} _{-0.007}	-1.430 ^{+0.013} _{-0.013}	-3.226 ^{+0.234} _{-0.261}	12.024 ^{+0.286} _{-0.275}	123/225
20.623-21.652	673.96 ^{+45.30} _{-41.29}	37.87 ^{+1.30} _{-1.28}	-0.606 ^{+0.007} _{-0.007}	-1.431 ^{+0.016} _{-0.016}	-3.248 ^{+0.238} _{-0.262}	20.304 ^{+0.496} _{-0.488}	108/225
21.652-24.619	604.25 ^{+31.13} _{-28.29}	38.94 ^{+1.11} _{-1.09}	-0.813 ^{+0.005} _{-0.005}	-1.527 ^{+0.012} _{-0.012}	-3.495 ^{+0.196} _{-0.217}	35.373 ^{+0.588} _{-0.588}	117/225
24.619-27.595	512.81 ^{+36.73} _{-32.69}	25.10 ^{+0.53} _{-0.52}	-0.625 ^{+0.006} _{-0.006}	-1.654 ^{+0.012} _{-0.012}	-3.468 ^{+0.244} _{-0.275}	25.388 ^{+0.460} _{-0.454}	115/225
27.595-30.379	668.93 ^{+55.60} _{-47.87}	20.11 ^{+0.48} _{-0.47}	-0.548 ^{+0.007} _{-0.007}	-1.567 ^{+0.012} _{-0.012}	-3.694 ^{+0.344} _{-0.441}	16.353 ^{+0.352} _{-0.343}	115/225
30.379-33.696	352.95 ^{+46.23} _{-39.15}	23.41 ^{+0.72} _{-0.70}	-0.629 ^{+0.009} _{-0.009}	-1.790 ^{+0.024} _{-0.024}	-3.855 ^{+0.506} _{-0.549}	12.808 ^{+0.370} _{-0.357}	120/225
33.696-44.043	297.78 ^{+26.16} _{-22.91}	20.12 ^{+0.45} _{-0.44}	-0.747 ^{+0.006} _{-0.006}	-1.753 ^{+0.015} _{-0.015}	-3.358 ^{+0.258} _{-0.276}	16.061 ^{+0.301} _{-0.289}	161/225
44.043-56.422	159.96 ^{+19.66} _{-16.75}	15.77 ^{+0.39} _{-0.38}	-0.495 ^{+0.010} _{-0.010}	-1.711 ^{+0.023} _{-0.022}	-2.990 ^{+0.248} _{-0.276}	4.758 ^{+0.128} _{-0.123}	137/225
56.422-95.770	27.16 ^{+0.81} _{-0.71}	35.22 ^{+964.78} _{-6.23}	-0.329 ^{+0.011} _{-0.011}	-1.740 ^{-0.010} _{-0.010}	-2.235 ^{+0.011} _{-0.009}	0.832 ^{+0.031} _{-0.025}	286/225