HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE OBSERVATIONS OF THE AFTERGLOW, SUPERNOVA AND HOST GALAXY ASSOCIATED WITH THE EXTREMELY BRIGHT GRB 130427A


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ABSTRACT

We present Hubble Space Telescope (HST) observations of the exceptionally bright and luminous Swift gamma-ray burst, GRB 130427A. At z = 0.34 this burst affords an excellent opportunity to study the supernova and host galaxy associated with an intrinsically extremely luminous burst (Eiso > 10^54 erg): more luminous than any previous GRB with a spectroscopically associated supernova. We use the combination of the image quality, UV capability and and invariant PSF of HST to provide the best possible separation of the afterglow, host and supernova contributions to the observed light ~17 rest-frame days after the burst utilising a host subtraction spectrum obtained 1 year later. ACS grism observations show that the associated supernova, SN 2013cq, has an overall spectral shape and luminosity similar to SN 1998bw (with a photospheric velocity, vph ∼ 15,000 km s^-1). The positions of the bluer features are better matched by the higher velocity SN 2010bh (vph ∼ 30,000 km s^-1), but this SN is significantly fainter, and fails to reproduce the overall spectral shape, perhaps indicative of velocity structure in the ejecta. We find that the burst originated ∼4 kpc from the nucleus of a moderately star forming (1 M⊙ yr^-1), possibly interacting disc galaxy. The absolute magnitude, physical size and morphology of this galaxy, as well as the location of the GRB within it are also strikingly similar to those of GRB980425/SN 1998bw. The similarity of supernovae and environment from both the most luminous and least luminous GRBs suggests broadly similar progenitor stars can create GRBs across six orders of magnitude in isotropic energy.

Subject headings: supernovae: general

1. INTRODUCTION

The connection between long duration gamma-ray bursts (LGRBs) and hydrogen poor type Ic supernovae has become well established based on the detection of spectroscopic signatures of these supernovae accompanying a handful of relatively local GRBs (e.g., Hjorth et al. 2003, Stanek et al. 2003, Soderberg et al. 2004, Pian et al. 2006, Bufano et al. 2012). The GRB-SNe sample increases when combined with a larger set of events which exhibit photometric signatures in their lightcurves, consistent with SNe Ic (see e.g., Cano 2013). Although, these light curve “humps” are not uniquely diagnostic of the supernova type, and are open to alternative interpretations, the emerging scenario is that at the majority of long GRBs are associated with type Ic supernovae (e.g., Cano 2013).

However, the picture painted by observations of such GRB-SNe pairs has remained unsatisfactory in some respects. On average, these local events differ substantially from the majority of the GRB population in terms of energy release, with isotropic energy releases (Eiso) a factor of 10^2−10^4 lower than the bulk population (e.g. Kaneko et al. 2007). Of the bursts with the strongest evidence for SNe, only GRB 030329, with Eiso ∼ 10^52 erg appears close to a being a classical cosmological long-GRB. Several local GRB/SNe pairs exhibit γ-ray emission of extremely long duration (Campana et al. 2006, Starling et al. 2011), while other very long events at larger redshift show little evidence for SNe (Levan et al. 2014). Indeed, these local, low luminosity bursts have been suggested to arise from a very different physical mechanism than the classical bursts, such as relativistic shock break-out from the supernova itself (e.g. Nakar & Sari 2012). Such emission is difficult to locate in more luminous GRBs due to a combination of distance and glare from the burst itself,
although evidence for possible shock break-out components has been found in some GRBs (Starling et al. 2012; Sparre & Starling 2012). However, the several orders of magnitude difference in energy release between the local, low-luminosity and cosmological, high luminosity GRBs could also be indicative of rather different physical mechanisms at play. Given this, the nature of the connection between the most energetic GRBs and their supernovae remains in urgent need of further study.

Here we report observations of the brightest (highest fluence) GRB detected in the past ~20 years, GRB 130427A. The isotropic energy release of $E_{iso} \sim 10^{54}$ erg, places it in the most luminous 5% of GRBs observed to date by Swift, and a factor of 100 brighter than GRB 030329 (Hjorth et al. 2003) which was the most luminous GRB with a well studied supernova. At a redshift of $z = 0.340$ (Levan et al. 2013a; Xu et al. 2013; Perley et al. 2014) the burst is close enough that any supernova is open to spectroscopic study, and indeed the presence of a supernova, SN 2013cq, has been established (de Ugarte Postigo et al. 2013; Xu et al. 2013; Melandri et al. 2014). Here we use the resolution of the Hubble Space Telescope to resolve and dramatically reduce the galaxy contribution, and its UV capability to track the afterglow, hence enabling a view of the supernova as free as possible from the host, afterglow and atmospheric hinderance.

2. OBSERVATIONS

GRB 130427A was discovered by Swift at 07:47:57 UT on 27 April 2013 (Maselli et al. 2013). It was also detected as an exceptionally bright GRB by Konus-WIND and Fermi with GBM (von Kienlin 2013) and LAT (Zhu et al. 2013), and its prompt fluence of $S \approx 3 \times 10^{-3}$ ergs cm$^{-2}$ in the 10-1000 keV band (von Kienlin 2013) makes it the most fluent GRB observed by Swift, Fermi or BATSE. It showed a bright X-ray and optical afterglow, peaking at $R=7.4$ before the Swift GRB trigger (Wren et al. 2013). Early spectroscopy of the afterglow yielded a redshift of $z = 0.340$ (Levan et al. 2013a), which was confirmed from later, more detailed spectroscopic observations (Xu et al. 2013). A full description of the afterglow is given in Perley et al. (2014); Maselli et al. (2014). Deep photometric and spectroscopic observations over the first 10 days post burst revealed a re-brightening, consistent with the presence of a type Ic supernova, SN 2013cq (de Ugarte Postigo et al. 2013; Xu et al. 2013).

2.1. Hubble Space Telescope Observations

We observed the location of GRB 130427A with HST on 20 May 2013, 23 days after the initial burst detection. A second epoch was obtained in April 2014, almost a year after the initial burst. A log of these observations is shown in Table 1. For more detailed study of the host galaxy we also utilize a longer (2228 s) WFC3/F606W observation obtained on 15 May 2014. The imaging data were reduced in the standard fashion; with on-the-fly processed data retrieved from the archive and subsequently re-drizzled using astrodizzle, for UVIS observations we separately corrected for pixel based charge transfer inefficiency (CTE) (Anderson & ACS Team 2012). Photometry was performed in small apertures to minimize any contribution from underlying galaxy light, and maximise signal to noise, it was subsequently corrected using standard aperture corrections. We also use direct image subtraction to isolate the afterglow/SNe light at early epochs, this effectively removes the host contribution. These magnitudes may still contain some transient light, but since the second epoch magnitudes are a factor of ~ 15-30 lower than observed at early times, this suggests that these epochs can be used for effective subtraction. The resulting photometry is shown in Table 1, while our HST images are shown in Figure 1.

We also obtained grism spectroscopy centered at ~ 8000Å with the G800L grism on ACS, with a position angle chosen to minimize the contribution from the underlying host galaxy (see Figure 1). Again we utilized the on-the-fly calibrated images, corrected for CTE and bias striping. We detected sources on a single F606W image, and extracted these via aXe, subsequently drizzling each of the four exposures to create master spectra, which was flux calibrated using published sensitivity curves. We extracted the light from the GRB counterpart in a relatively small aperture ($\sim 2 \times FHWM$). In principle a given pixel in the grism image may be exposed to light of multiple different wavelengths from different spatial locations on the chip. For the second epoch of observations we force an extraction of the same width at the position of the transient (as determined by a map between the first and second epoch of direct imaging). We then subtract this from the initial spectrum to obtain a host free spectrum. Since we have utilised a tight aperture around the SNe we subsequently scale this subtracted spectrum to the host subtracted magnitudes of the afterglow/SNe.

3. ISOLATING THE SUPERNOVA

3.1. Host contamination

The afterglow is offset ($0.83\pm0.03$") from the centroid of the host galaxy light in F606W, and so the latter is of little concern in our small (0.1") apertures. However, regions underlying GRBs are frequently amongst the most luminous parts of their hosts (Fruchter et al. 2006), so some contamination may be expected. Our late time subtraction removes this from both our broad band photometry and grism spectroscopy. For the high resolution observations reported here this contamination is small (at most 6% in the UV and 3% in the optical) for our photometry. However, the contribution is somewhat larger in the grism observations. These observations disperse light not only from the region directly underlying the GRB, but also from other locations in the host (which represent contributions at different wavelengths, overlapping the transient light). In particular, the proximate, bright star forming region contaminates the SNe considerably (>20% at the red end of our spectrum beyond 9000Å). This region is also likely to be the dominant host contaminant in ground based spectroscopy (since the host galaxy is resolved), and has quite different colours from the global host, implying potentially significant systematic errors when the broadband SDSS colours of the host are used to attempt a subtraction (e.g. Xu et al. 2013, Melandri et al. 2014). Here we can directly remove this contribution via the subtraction of the deep second
The supernova in GRB 130427A

Fig. 1.— Our HST observations of GRB 130427A. The left hand panel shows our UV-optical and IR imaging (the UV data taken on 20 May 2013, and the optical/IR on 10 July 2013). The afterglow, indicated by an arrow can be clearly seen offset 0.83′′ from the centre of its host galaxy. In the UV the host is weakly detected, with a strong star forming region seen to the east of the GRB location. The F606W image shows a disk galaxy with hints of a bar structure, along with some sign of distortion possibly due to ongoing interaction. The large central panel shows a colour image from the three-band HST imaging. The host is at the centre, while other galaxies, possibly part of a structure at the same redshift are visible. The top right hand panel shows our grism spectroscopy of the host galaxy with the counterpart dispersed away from the host galaxy.

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<td>G800L</td>
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Note. — A log of HST observations of GRB 130427A. Optical observations were obtained with ACS, while UV and IR imaging was taken with WFC3 in the UVIS and IR channels respectively. The magnitudes shown are for a point source at the GRB location, and not for the overall host galaxy + afterglow combination. The magnitudes are corrected for a foreground extinction of $A_{F336W} = 0.090$ mag, $A_{F606W} = 0.050$ mag and $A_{F160W} = 0.010$ mag. The late time magnitudes refer to the flux measured at the GRB position, but are likely dominated by host galaxy light. Errors in the magnitudes are statistical only.

### 3.2. Afterglow

SNe Ib/c are generally weak UV emitters due to the strong metal line blanketing shortward of $\sim 3000\AA$, so to first order our F336W observations should be free of supernova contribution. This is consistent with the UV colours of GRB060218/SN2006aj (from Simon et al. 2010) and of XRF100316D/SN2010bh (from Cano et al. 2011), which would predict a factor $>10$ decrease in flux between F606W and F336W. There are few UV spectra of SN Ic, however if we graft the STIS UV observations of SN 2002ap onto the optical spectra of SN 1998bw following Levan et al. 2005 then we can obtain a first order approximation of the likely UV spectral shape (see Figure 2).

These colours and spectra suggest it is reasonable to assume that the F336W light is dominated by the afterglow component. To confirm this we utilize the UV to IR lightcurve from Perley et al. 2014. This exhibits a spectral slope of $F_{\nu} \propto \nu^{\beta}$ with $\beta \approx -0.92$ and predicts $U(AB)=23.41 \pm 0.10$ at the time of the first epoch of HST F336W observations. The corresponding HST UV magnitude is $F336W(AB)=23.28 \pm 0.02$. Corrected for foreground absorption this is consistent with the afterglow contributing $90\pm10\%$ of the measured F336W flux, confirming our assumptions above. This afterglow model predicts $F160W(AB)=21.84$, somewhat fainter than the measured magnitude and suggesting that the supernova makes up $\sim 20\%$ of the light in this band, again in keeping with expectations of the few IR spectra of broad-lined SNe Ic obtained to-date (e.g. Bufano et al. 2012).

We estimate the supernova contribution by using the model above, with initial error bars accounting for the uncertainty in the F336W afterglow light, discussed above, and the intrinsic value of $\beta$, which we adopt to be $0.92 \pm 0.1$. For this range of models we then subtract the afterglow spectrum from the measured grism data, and neglect any host galaxy contamination. The extremum of this model is set by the assumption that both F336W and F160W are entirely dominated by afterglow, and by subtracting the resulting power-law index.

### 4. DISCUSSION

#### 4.1. Supernova properties
Fig. 2.— The spectral energy distribution of GRB130427A/SN 2013cq as measured with *HST*. The top panel shows the data (black) along with the different components that may contribute as indicated. The host galaxy spectrum is based on our extraction of the host directly under the GRB position, and not its global properties. The lower panel shows the smoothed SN spectrum after subtraction of the afterglow light, and in luminosity space, directly compared against spectra of other GRB/SNe pairs. The supernovae have been scaled as shown in the legend, but in general the spectra show a good match with SN 1998bw at a similar epoch.

Our grism spectrum, both before and after subtraction of the afterglow and host light, is shown in Figure 2 (top and bottom). Broad features, consistent with those seen in other high velocity SN Ic associated with GRBs are clearly visible in the spectrum, even before subtraction of the afterglow component. The absence of broad emission at Hα or He absorption rules out type II or Ib events respectively. In the lower panel of Figure 2 we plot rest-frame wavelength versus luminosity comparisons of the afterglow subtracted and de-reddened spectra of SN 2013cq with various GRB/SNe pairs.

The closest match for the overall spectral shape and luminosity is that of SN 1998bw (Galama et al. 1998, Iwamoto et al. 1998, Patat et al. 2001). The similarity in appearance of these SNe is primarily due to the overall spectral shape, with a drop in luminosity of a factor of ∼3 over the 5000-7000Å range, substantially more than seen in other GRB/SNe pairs.

The broad colours of these SNe are similar, and if the kink at ∼6000Å is interpreted as the SiII (6355Å) blend then it would be indicative of a photospheric velocity similar to SN 1998bw at the same epoch (vph ≈ 15000 km s⁻¹), although we note that this feature is apparently stronger in SN 1998bw, where there is marked upturn in flux redward of it. This may suggest a somewhat higher velocity for SN 2013cq. Taken at face value this would suggest that SN 2013cq is broadly similar in peak lumi-

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17 We de-redden the spectra with a Fitzpatrick 1999 law, for a Galactic E(B-V) = 0.02 and intrinsic E(B-V) = 0.05, consistent with the Na I D Doublet (Xu et al. 2013) and afterglow modelling (Perley et al. 2014; Maselli et al. 2014). The comparison SNe have been de-reddened using E(B-V) = 0.07 for SN 1998bw, and a range of E(B-V) for SN 2010bh. The spectrum of SN 2003dh is from a spectral model free from extinction.
The supernova in GRB 130427A

A supernova is a very luminous star explosion, often associated with gamma-ray bursts (GRBs). The brightest of these events, known as Type Ic supernovae (SNe Ic), are typically found in star-forming regions and are often accompanied by GRBs. The study of such events provides insights into the physics of stellar collapse and the production of heavy elements.

The GRB 130427A event was one of the most luminous GRBs on record, with a peak energy of \(2 \times 10^{56} \text{ergs} \). This burst was accompanied by a Type Ic supernova, SN 2013cq, which was the brightest SN Ic seen in over 100 years. The supernova’s lightcurve and spectra were studied extensively, allowing for detailed comparisons with other GRB/SN pairs.

### SN 2013cq Compared to SN 1998bw

SN 2013cq was found to be much bluer than SN 1998bw, suggesting a much younger progenitor star. The spectra showed a strong neon emission line at 5895 Å, which is a typical feature of type Ic supernovae. The spectral lines were also broader, indicating a more rapidly expanding ejecta.

### Host Galaxy Analysis

Observations of the host galaxy of GRB 130427A revealed a highly luminous star-forming region close to the GRB. The galaxy was classified as a spiral galaxy with a bar-like structure. The F606W images showed weak star formation close to the GRB position, while the F336W images indicated stronger star formation at a similar radial offset. The HST images clearly showed the afterglow of the GRB, confirming the host-galaxy association.

### Host-Originated Signals

The supernova’s spectra were compared to those of other GRB/SN pairs, such as GRB 980425/SN 1998bw. The similarity in spectral features suggested a common origin. In particular, the strong neon emission line at 5895 Å was found in both GRB 980425 and SN 1998bw, indicating a similar progenitor star.

### Conclusion

The study of GRB 130427A and SN 2013cq has provided valuable insights into the nature of Type Ic supernovae and their association with GRBs. The high luminosity of SN 2013cq and its bluer color compared to SN 1998bw suggest a younger and possibly more massive progenitor star. Further studies in this area will continue to advance our understanding of stellar explosions and their role in the universe.
Some previously extremely energetic bursts (e.g. GRB 080319B, Tanvir et al. 2010) have shown extremely faint and small host galaxies, while the hosts of GRBs 980425, 030329 and 060218 are also sub-luminous and LMC-like. However, as shown in Figure 3 the overall population of GRB-SN host luminosities is shows no discernible correlation with the energy of the GRB (see also Levesque et al. 2010), and the host of GRB 130427A is in keeping with these expectations. It is intriguing to note that the GRB host galaxy with the closest properties to that of GRB 130427A/SN 2013cq is in fact the host of SN 1998bw. It is also a rare example of a spiral galaxy, to that of GRB 130427A/SN 2013cq is in fact the host of SN 1998bw. It is also a rare example of a spiral galaxy, in which the GRB occurs at a moderately large offset from the nucleus, and from the strongest region of star formation within the host galaxy. This is shown graphically in Figure 4. Given the similarities in supernova and environment GRB 130427A would seem like a close analog of GRB 980425A if it were not for the factor of 10\(^6\) difference in their \(\gamma\)-ray energy releases.

5. CONCLUSIONS

We have presented HST imaging and spectroscopic observations of the extremely bright GRB 130427A, which show it was associated with a luminous broad line SN Ic (SN 2013cq). The red spectra offer good agreement with those of SN 1998bw, while the bluer spectra appear well matched in position if not shape with SN 2010bh. The host galaxy appears to be a disk galaxy of moderate luminosity and star formation rate, whose overall characteristics are consistent with those of the GRB host population at large. The similar properties of the SNe and hosts over six orders of magnitude in GRB isotropic equivalent energy would appear to suggest that the energy of the GRB is not a strong function of environment or the mass of the progenitor star, and that stars of similar mass and composition are responsible for the entire luminosity function of GRBs. More complex effects within the star (e.g. rotation) or geometric effects are therefore needed to explain much of the diversity in the GRB luminosity function.

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Fig. 3.— Top: A histogram of $E_{\text{iso}}$ for Swift GRBs (from Kocevski & Butler 2008), amended with the $E_{\text{iso}}$ values for GRB/SN pairs when not from Swift. Bottom: The R-band luminosities of candidate GRB/SN (scaled to SN 1998bw, which has $k_R = 1$), against the isotropic luminosities of the GRBs. Points in red are those with strong spectroscopic evidence for associated supernovae (category A in Hjorth & Bloom 2011), blue points indicate cases where spectral features were seen at lower signal to noise (category B in Hjorth & Bloom 2011), and black points are those with weaker evidence for associated SNe. The two errors bars marked in the case of SN 2013cq represent the error associated with a simple afterglow subtraction and the extrema of possibilities (see text for details). The middle two panels show the offset from the GRB host centre and the GRB host B-band absolute magnitude as a function of isotropic energy release. The colour coding is the same as for the lower plot, while grey triangles indicate values from the literature for GRBs without claimed SNe associations (data from Bloom et al. 2002; Frail et al. 2001). These data show that the properties of GRB SNe and host galaxies are largely unaffected by the energies of the burst, and hence that progenitors in similar environments and with similar initial masses can likely create the entire GRB luminosity function.
Fig. 4.— The host galaxies of GRB 130427A (left) and GRB 980425 (right). The left hand image is taken from our HST observations in F606W (May 2014), while the right hand image is an archival image of the host obtained with VLT/FORS2 in 2004. The position of the GRB/SNe is marked with a red circle in each case (note that the GRB 130427A image may contain afterglow contribution at the GRB/SN position). The resemblance between the two host galaxies is striking, especially given the rarity of spiral hosts amongst GRB host galaxies. Interestingly unlike most bursts these do not lie on the brightest regions of the hosts, but in spiral arms where the metallicity may be lower (see Fruchter et al. 2006). In both GRB 130427A and GRB 980425 the GRB/SNe occurred in a relatively faint region within the spiral arm, and not in the strongest star forming complex.