

GRB 990123: An Extraordinary Example of an Ordinary Gamma-Ray Burst?

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One of the most interesting gamma-ray burst discoveries in recent years was the simultaneous detection of GRB 990123 at optical, X-ray and gamma-ray wavelengths. Subsequent observations of this burst revealed optical, X-ray and radio afterglow counterparts, which eventually led to a redshift measurement, $z \geq 1.6$. During the prompt emission phase, this burst was fortuitously observed by nearly all the instruments on the Compton Observatory, providing us with a detailed account of the gamma-ray emission properties. Although the burst was a large event in terms of its gamma-ray flux and fluence, its spectral properties are similar to the majority of the burst population. We will review the gamma-ray spectral and temporal properties of GRB 990123, concentrating on their relation to the full burst population and their relation to the prompt optical emission.