

UFFO/*Lomonosov*: The Payload for the Observation of Early Photons from Gamma Ray Bursts

I.H. Park^{1,2} · M.I. Panasyuk^{3,4} · V. Reglero⁵ · P. Chen^{6,7} · A.J. Castro-Tirado^{8,9} · S. Jeong^{1,2,8} · V. Bogomolov^{3,4} · S. Brandt¹⁰ · C. Budtz-Jørgensen¹⁰ · S.-H. Chang¹¹ · Y.Y. Chang⁶ · C.-R. Chen¹¹ · C.-W. Chen⁶ · H.S. Choi¹² · P. Connell⁵ · C. Eyles⁵ · G. Gaikov¹ · G. Garipov³ · J.-J. Huang⁶ · M.-H.A. Huang¹³ · H.M. Jeong¹ · J.E. Kim¹ · M.B. Kim¹ · S.-W. Kim¹⁴ · H.K. Lee¹⁵ · J. Lee¹ · H. Lim¹ · C.-Y. Lin¹¹ · T.-C. Liu^{6,7} · J.W. Nam^{6,7} · V. Petrov³ · J. Ripa^{6,7} · J.M. Rodrigo⁵ · S. Svertilov^{3,4} · M.-Z. Wang⁶ · I. Yashin³

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Abstract The payload of the UFFO (Ultra-Fast Flash Observatory)-pathfinder now onboard the *Lomonosov* spacecraft (hereafter UFFO/*Lomonosov*) is a dedicated instrument for the observation of GRBs. Its primary aim is to capture the rise phase of the optical light curve, one of the least known aspects of GRBs. Fast response measurements of the optical emission of GRB will be made by a Slewing Mirror Telescope (SMT), a key instrument of the payload, which will open a new frontier in transient studies by probing the early optical rise of GRBs with a response time in seconds for the first time. The SMT employs a rapidly slewing

The Lomonosov Mission

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✉ S. Jeong
soominjeong@gmail.com

J. Lee
jiklee2011@gmail.com

- ¹ Department of Physics, Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU), 2066 Seobu-ro, Suwon, 440-746, South Korea
- ² Institute of Science and Technology in Space, Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU), 2066 Seobu-ro, Suwon, 440-746, South Korea
- ³ Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics of Lomonosov, Moscow State University, Leninskie Gory, Moscow, 119234, Russia
- ⁴ Physics Department of Lomonosov Moscow State University, Leninskie Gory, Moscow, 119234, Russia
- ⁵ GACE, Edif. de Centros de Investigacion, Universidad de Valencia, Burjassot, 46100 Valencia, Spain
- ⁶ Department of Physics and Graduate Institute of Astrophysics, National Taiwan University, 1 Roosevelt Road, Taipei, 10617, Taiwan
- ⁷ Leung Center for Cosmology and Particle Astrophysics, National Taiwan University, 1 Roosevelt Road, Taipei, 10617, Taiwan
- ⁸ Instituto de Astrofisica de Andalucia (IAA-CSIC), P.O. Box 03004, 18080 Granada, Spain
- ⁹ Departamento de Ingenieria de Sistemas y Automatica (Unidad Asociada al CSIC), Universidad de Malaga, Malaga, Spain

mirror to redirect the optical axis of the telescope to a GRB position prior determined by the UFFO Burst Alert Telescope (UBAT), the other onboard instrument, for the observation and imaging of X-rays. UFFO/Lomonosov was launched successfully from Vostochny, Russia on April 28, 2016, and will begin GRB observations after completion of functional checks of the Lomonosov spacecraft. The concept of early GRB photon measurements with UFFO was reported in 2012. In this article, we will report in detail the first mission, UFFO/Lomonosov, for the rapid response to GRB observations.

Keywords Gamma ray burst · UFFO · Lomonosov · UBAT · SMT

1 Introduction

Gamma Ray Bursts (GRB) are the most luminous explosions in the universe, emitting the highest energy photons, and detected at the highest redshift of any discrete source in the universe (Salvaterra et al. 2009; Tanvir et al. 2009). These properties provide great leverage in time, wavelength, and information, and thus a unique opportunity to understand not only the nature of the universe but fundamental physics (Lamb and Reichart 2000; Bromm and Loeb 2006; Kistler et al. 2009; Amati et al. 2008; Ghirlanda et al. 2006; Panaiteescu and Vestrand 2008; Kocevski 2012; Shahmoradi and Nemiroff 2011; Bernardini et al. 2012; Zhang et al. 2009; Greiner et al. 2011). GRB emission spans some 9 orders of magnitude in photon energy, a prime opportunity for synoptic observations.

GRBs are believed to be sources of ultra-high energy cosmic rays (UHECR) (Waxman 2006; Abu-Zayyad et al. 2012; Tokuno et al. 2012; Abraham et al. 2004; Panasyuk et al. 2012; Takahashi 2009; Halzen and Klein 2010; Gorham et al. 2009) and gravitational waves (GW) whose detection has been reported recently (Cutler and Thorne 2002; Abramovici et al. 1992; Abbott et al. 2016a), and is a prime example of multi-messenger astronomy. The rapid-response in the observation of electromagnetic counterparts to GW (Abbott et al. 2016b) is important to obtain the rich information in physical processes of GRBs giving rise to each messenger and the time delay between them.

In spite of the wide knowledge already acquired about GRBs from space (Klebesadel et al. 1973; Fishman 1994; Boella et al. 1997; Piro et al. 1998a; MacFadyen and Woosley 1999; Ricker et al. 2002; Winkler et al. 2003; Gehrels et al. 2004; Perna et al. 2003; Piran 2004; Nakar 2007) and on the ground there are still many open questions about their progenitors and environment. Deeper understanding of GRBs requires more statistics of GRBs, particularly of high-z GRBs, measurements of polarization, and a wider range of not only spectral coverage extending to sub-keV X-ray and infrared (IR) but also temporal coverage through rapid pointing of telescopes at GRBs. These observational capabilities are to

¹⁰ National Space Institute, Technical University of Denmark, 2800 Kgs. Lyngby, Denmark

¹¹ National Space Organization, 9 Prosperity 1st Road, Hsinchu Science Park, HsinChu, 30078, Taiwan

¹² Korea Institute of Industrial Technology, 89 Yangdaegiro-gil, Seobuk-gu, Cheonan-si, Chungcheongnam-do, 331-822, South Korea

¹³ Department of Energy Engineering, National United University, 2, Lienda Rd., 36063 Miaoli, Taiwan

¹⁴ Department of Astronomy, Yonsei University, 134 Shinchon-dong, Seoul 120-749, South Korea

¹⁵ Camera Development Group, Mobile Communication Business Division, SAMSUNG Electronics Co. Ltd., Suwon, South Korea

be incorporated in future missions (Paul et al. 2011; Roming et al. 2012; Produkt et al. 2005; Park et al. 2013). They are expected to enlarge the detection area and/or volume of X-rays and the aperture of UV/optical/IR telescopes, and improve photometric, temporal and spectral sensitivities as well.

Hundreds of GRB UV/optical light curves have been measured since the discovery of optical afterglows (van Paradijs et al. 1997; Costa et al. 1997) and their distance measurement with the event on May 8, 1997 (Metzger et al. 1997; Piro et al. 1998). The *Swift* spacecraft is currently in operation in space with the fastest high-sensitivity in the UV/optical (Gehrels et al. 2004). However, after a decade of operation of *Swift*, the immediate aftermath of the explosion is scarcely observed in the optical or UV because the *Swift* instrument typically responds in \sim 100 s or more. Ground-based telescopes do occasionally respond faster, but only a relatively small number of rapid detections have been produced to date with heterogeneous sensitivities and other characteristics. Only a few short duration GRBs have been detected in the UV/optical/IR within the first minute after the gamma-ray signal.

Swift BAT broadcasts the coordinates of GRBs detected within 5–7 s over the internet via the gamma-ray coordinate network (GCN¹) which ground telescopes may respond to and follow their coordinates. Large terrestrial telescopes such as Keck have better sensitivity than *Swift* UVOT, but slower slew times which makes them uncompetitive for the sub-1000 s regime. The response of robotic telescopes on ground (e.g. ROTSE-I-III (Akerlof et al. 2003), RAPTOR (Vestrand et al. 2002), PAIRITEL (Bloom et al. 2006), Super-LOTIS (Williams et al. 2004), BOOTES (Jelinek et al. 2010), MASTER (Lipunov et al. 2010)) is extremely rapid, e.g. 25 s for ROTSE-III, however, the sensitivity is far less than that of the *Swift* UVOT (Roming et al. 2005). Due to their small size, and to the limitations of ground-based observations including daytime and weather, together these instruments have managed only a handful of rapid detections (Akerlof et al. 1999). An observation of prompt optical from GRB080319B (Racusin et al. 2008) happened to be made by TORTORA (Beskin et al. 2010) on the REM telescope and by ‘Pi of the Sky’ (Burd et al. 2005) when this GRB took place in their field of view.

Therefore, the *Swift* limit of a 60 s response is the practical minimum for sensitive UV/optical GRB studies for the near to mid-term future. This lack of early observations and the blindness to the rise phase of many GRB optical light curves, along with those of other rapidly variable transient sources, leaves fertile astrophysical territory. Many important physical questions arising at the short time scales remain unexplored (Molinari et al. 2007; Panaiteescu and Vestrand 2008; Cline et al. 2011). Rapid data collection is also essential for tests of fundamental physics such as constraints on Lorentz violations (Ellis et al. 2006) and CPT (Kostelecky and Mewes 2008) from the time delay between different energy photons, or between photons and neutrinos. Coincident or successive observations of the explosion event as an electromagnetic counterpart to a neutrino or gravitational wave observatory signal would revolutionize astronomy, and greatly improve our understanding of black holes, neutron stars, and strong field gravity.

The Ultra-Fast Flash Observatory (UFFO) was proposed to measure the UV/optical counterpart on second time scales (Park et al. 2013) after the gamma ray trigger from GRBs by introducing very fast pointing of the narrow-FOV UV/optical telescope using a fast slewing mirror or mirror array (Park et al. 2009). It provides a reliable method to lower the current response limit by one to two orders of magnitude in order to obtain a large statistically meaningful sample of GRB light curves including the rise phase for the first time. The instrument idea and fabrication, and its physics potential were

¹<http://gcn.gsfc.nasa.gov>.

described in previous reports (Park et al. 2013; Jeong et al. 2013; Kim et al. 2013; Nam et al. 2013).

As the first one of its kind, the UFFO/*Lomonosov* instrument has been developed as one of science payloads onboard the *Lomonosov* satellite that was successfully launched in April 28, 2016. As its name UFFO-pathfinder (Park et al. 2009) suggests, UFFO/*Lomonosov* is a pathfinder of the UFFO, which serves as the observational cornerstone of future mission development for rapid responses, though small and limited. An overview of the *Lomonosov* spacecraft and its payload is presented as a separate paper in the same issue of this journal. Here we describe the details and update of the flight model of UFFO/*Lomonosov* together with the status of operation in space, while the X-ray telescope of UFFO/*Lomonosov* (UBAT) is detailed in a separate paper in this issue. The concept of early photon measurements is introduced in Sect. 2. Section 3 summarizes the instrumentation of UFFO/*Lomonosov* followed by the running efficiency in space. The telescopes for X-rays and UV/optical are described in Sects. 5 and 6. In Sect. 7, the expected brightness of GRBs is estimated for UFFO/*Lomonosov*. Section 8 demonstrates the operation of the UFFO/*Lomonosov* in space. The mission summary is given in Sect. 9.

2 The Method of Early Photon Measurements in UFFO/*Lomonosov*

Swift responds to GRB triggers by rotating the entire spacecraft to point its optical telescopes at the GRB. *Swift* has a lower limit of around 60 s to the response time for its optical measurements. Ground-based telescopes do occasionally respond faster, but only a handful of rapid detections have been produced to date. Our approach to accelerate the slew capabilities is to redirect the optical path at an astronomical telescope by using a lightweight slewing mirror rather than move the entire payload or telescope (Park et al. 2009). The slewing system of UFFO/*Lomonosov* is a flat mirror mounted on a gimbal platform. This concept of steering a telescope via steering mirror(s), called Slewing Mirror Telescope (SMT), enables in practice a large field of view (FOV) to be accessible without aberrations inherent in wide-field optical systems. The rotating mirror of SMT in UFFO/*Lomonosov* moves across the entire field of view wider than $70^\circ \times 70^\circ$, points, and settles in less than 1 s.

Apart from SMT for UV/optical measurements, UBAT (UFFO Burst Alert Telescope) in UFFO/*Lomonosov* measures X-rays by using a coded mask similar to *Swift* BAT (Burrows et al. 2005; Barthelmy et al. 2005), but the effective area of X-ray detection in UFFO/*Lomonosov* is smaller than *Swift* by 50 times. Typically bright GRBs have been localized by *Swift* BAT with the time of about 20 ms for X-ray acquisition, while 1 s would be taken for UFFO/*Lomonosov*. This means that for simple location of a GRB, rather than a detailed study of the X-ray through gamma-ray spectrum, a small instrument can locate a large fraction of those detected by much larger instruments. It makes possible very advanced missions improving on this UFFO-pathfinder with relatively modest size.

It is noted that the trigger latency of GRB localization with X-rays, the calculation time for alerting a GRB with its position in the sky, takes 5–7 s for *Swift*, which dominates in prompt alarm process for optical follow-ups. In UFFO/*Lomonosov* trigger calculations with X-rays, including rate trigger and imaging trigger, are performed in a couple of Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs), which reduces the latency significantly, e.g. “below 1 s”. Figure 1 shows the measurement concept of how to achieve the fast response of UV/optical observation. Figure 2 shows the domain of frequency and time accessible by space and ground experiments.

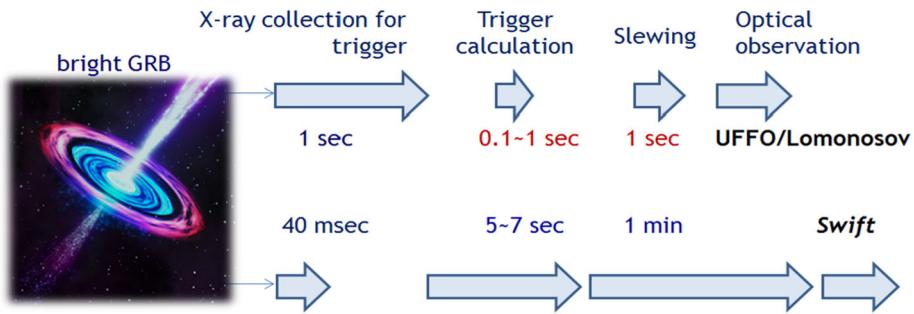


Fig. 1 Latency of X-ray collection, trigger calculation, and slewing of SMT for UFFO/Lomonosov in comparison to Swift

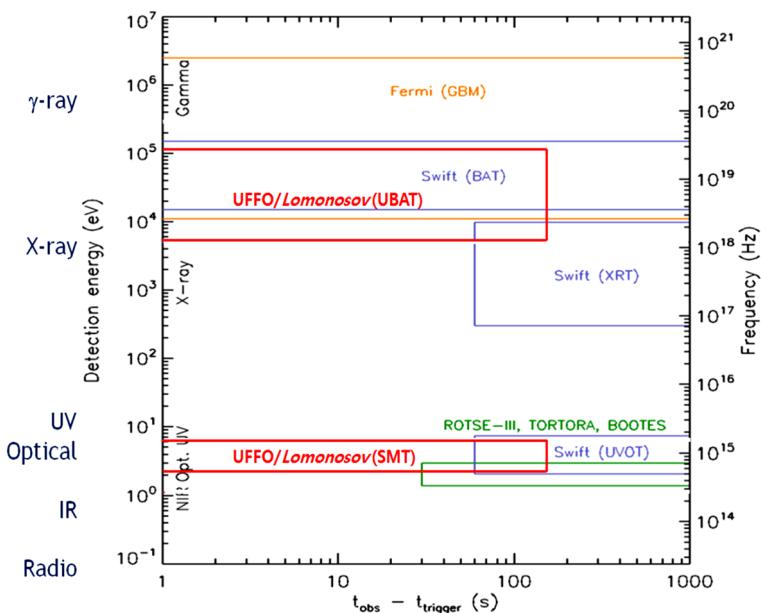


Fig. 2 The domain of frequency and time accessible by space and ground experiments. The UFFO/Lomonosov SMT will explore the fast regimes in optical below 60 s, whereas its UBAT responds to X-rays with energy down to 5 keV

3 Instrument Configuration

The payload of UFFO/Lomonosov is composed of two telescopes: a wide-FOV trigger telescope for X-ray measurements, UBAT, and a narrow-FOV fast telescope for UV/optical observations, SMT. Functionally, it is a large-scale version of the tracking mirror telescope for wide FOV coverage of sky with millisecond-slewing capability on trigger with coarse location (Park 2004; Park et al. 2008; Lee et al. 2012). Apertures of the telescopes are co-aligned providing multi-wavelengths measurement of GRBs in X-ray and UV/optical ranges.

The SMT is a 10-cm diameter aperture modified Ritchey-Chretien telescope equipped with a reflector of 15-cm diameter flat mirror that is rotated towards any light source within

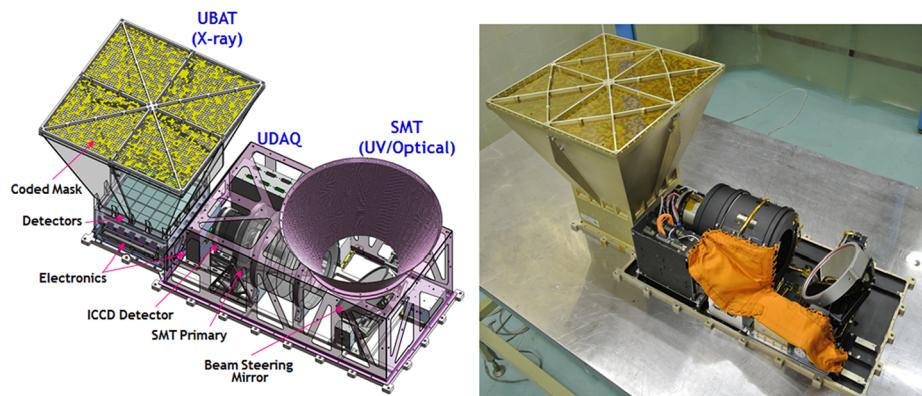


Fig. 3 A rendering of integrated UFFO/Lomonosov (*left*) and fabricated flight model (*right*)

the solid angle view of $70^\circ \times 70^\circ$ at the speed of a second after receiving the trigger from the UBAT. The SMT will be described in Sect. 6.

The signal for burst recognition to trigger UV/optical observations is provided by the UBAT. Being conceptually a down-sized version of the *Swift* BAT, it is a coded mask aperture camera which provides not only localization of a burst but flux and energy measurements. By using advanced FPGA with a lower number of detector channels, however, we reduce the trigger latency significantly, the required time of trigger decision, including computation speed for the trigger processing, less than a second and thus an order of magnitude faster than that of the *Swift*. The FOV of UBAT is $90.4 \times 90.4 \text{ deg}^2$ for partial coded and $70.4 \times 70.4 \text{ deg}^2$ for half coded, which overlaps the full coverage of the SMT, $70 \times 70 \text{ deg}^2$, and the location accuracy, $10 \times 10 \text{ arcmin}^2$, is comparable to the FOV of the SMT, $17 \times 17 \text{ arcmin}^2$. Less accurate pointing gives higher computation speed of the UBAT.

Due to the limitation in mass for the UFFO-pathfinder, its structure including the SMT and UBAT was fabricated to be lightweight, whereas meeting structural and functional requirements in stiffness, strength, dimensional restriction and thermal conduction. The housing was made of carbon fiber. Mirrors and substructure were manufactured through finite element analysis and lightweight engineering. The overall mass, power consumption, and the total volume of the UFFO/Lomonosov including electronics and support structure are 25 kg, 25 Watts, and $950 \times 400 \times 365 \text{ mm}^3$, respectively. The UBAT has the size of $400 \times 400 \times 365 \text{ mm}^2$, while the size of SMT is very compact. The SMT has a focal length of 1140 mm for which a small size focal plane detector is used. From the effective FOV and focal length the optimized size of the SMT was built to be $600 \times 320 \times 200 \text{ mm}^3$.

The readout, data acquisition and control electronics with a bus interface to the satellite, UFFO Data Acquisition system (UDAQ), is located at the bottom of the UFFO. The UDAQ is in charge of automatic control of the payload not only with the predefined list of commands but the list uploaded from the ground; interfacing to the satellite; data collection from the two telescopes, storing in several NOR flash memories and transfer to the satellite. It is also responsible for monitoring of all housekeeping parameters; calculation of the orbit and recognition of day and night with in-house photo sensors; power management, etc. All of these functions are implemented in an ACTEL FPGA for the low power consumption and fast real-time processing.

Table 1 lists the observation parameters of UFFO/Lomonosov in comparison to terminated and ongoing space missions. Figure 3 shows schematic views of the UFFO-pathfinder

Table 1 Major parameters in X-ray/UV/optical observations for various space missions including UFFO/Lomonosov

| Space mission | BATSE/CGRO (Fishman 1994) | <i>BepiSAX</i> (Boella et al. 1997) | HETE-2 (Ricker et al. 2002) | <i>Swift</i> (Gehrels et al. 2004) | GBM/ <i>Fermi</i> (Perna et al. 2003) | UFFO/ <i>Lomonosov</i> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|
| X-ray | Energy range Detector type | 20 keV–8 MeV NaI(Tl) | 2–30 keV coded mask + proportional counter | 2–25 keV coded mask + proportional counter | 15–150 keV coded mask + CZT | 5–150 keV coded mask + YSO |
| Detection area | | $8 \times 126 \text{ cm}^2$ | 140 cm^2 | 350 cm^2 | 5240 cm^2 | 191 cm^2 |
| FOV(half coded) | | $4\pi \text{ sr}$ | $40 \times 40 \text{ deg}^2$ | $80 \times 80 \text{ deg}^2$ | $100 \times 60 \text{ deg}^2$ | 2.5 sr |
| Localization accuracy | | $\sim 2 \text{ arcdeg in } 68\%$ | $<5 \text{ arcmin } (\sim 1.5 \text{ in } 99\%)$ | 10 arcmin in 90% | 1–4 arcmin (4 in 8σ) | 1–5 arcdeg in 7σ |
| UV/optical | Telescope | None | None | None | 30 cm φ UV/optical Ritchey- Chrétien | None 10 cm φ UV/optical Ritchey- Chrétien 1 s |
| GRB events/year | Response time after trigger | Not applicable | Not applicable | Not applicable | 60 s | Not applicable |
| Launch–termination year | 1991–2000 | 1996–2002 | 2000–2006 | 2004– | 2008– | 2016– |



Fig. 4 Integration of *Lomonosov* payloads (left, orange) to the spacecraft (right, white). The UBAT is shown as a white rectangle at the center of the payloads, and the SMT is shown as a white circle at the bottom of the payloads. (Courtesy of Roscosmos)

optimizing the space and position of each telescope as well as the manufactured flight model. The UFFO-pathfinder has successfully passed space environments test, including thermal, vacuum, shock, and vibrations, at the National Space Organization of Taiwan (NSPO) in August 2011. The final integration of the flight model to the *Lomonosov* spacecraft and space environments test was carried out at VNIEM in Russia between 2013 and 2015, before being moved to Vostochny in 2016 (see Fig. 4).

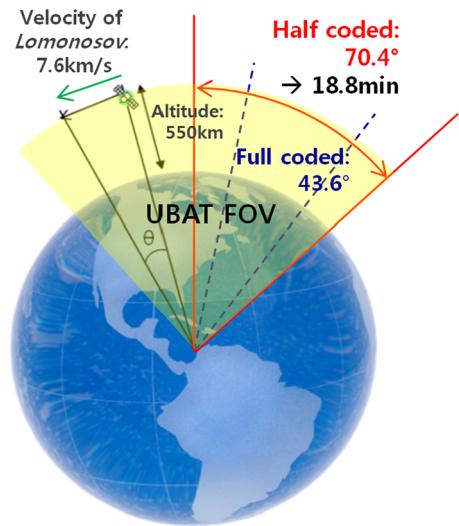
4 Running Efficiency and Observation Time of UFFO/*Lomonosov*

The *Lomonosov* satellite has a Sun-synchronous orbit with an inclination angle of 98 degrees and orbit altitude of 550 km. It turns 15 orbits every day, corresponding to 96 minutes taken per orbit. UFFO/*Lomonosov* will be powered off at polar regions for protection of the instrument against particle radiations. The fraction facing the Sun will be about 20% when the instrument is powered off. Therefore the power-on fraction per orbit is 55%, which corresponds to the running time of 13.2 hours per day.

The velocity of the *Lomonosov* satellite is about 7.6 km/s, and thus the angle of transverse is 0.0625 deg/s. The time of a point object passing through a SMT pixel is 0.018 s, while the time passing through the entire SMT is 4.551 s. The UBAT has about 70.4 degrees for half-coded FOV and about 43.6 degrees for full coded FOV, as shown in Fig. 5. So, the practical maximum observation time is about 18.8 min per orbit for a given GRB for the half-coded case.

The UFFO-pathfinder has a limit in the data size for transfer to Earth every day, designed to be 300 Mbytes/day. The event size including SMT, UBAT and other housekeeping information, amounts to 20 Mbytes. Therefore, the maximum number of triggers available every

Fig. 5 The orbit of the *Lomonosov* satellite and the field of view of the UBAT

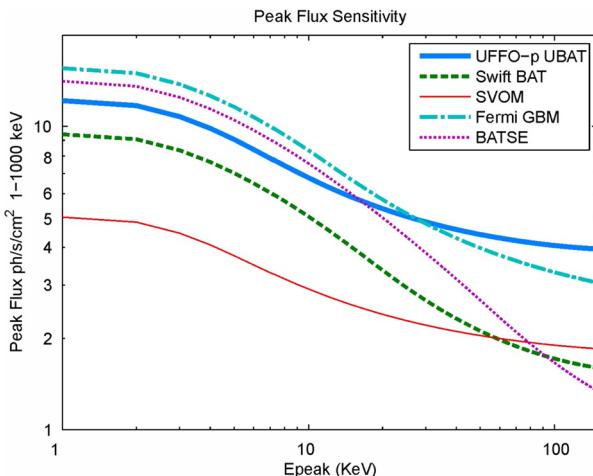


day is 15; however, due to the bottleneck in data transfer from the payloads of *Lomonosov* to the spacecraft via CAN bus, the speed of data transfer is limited for UFFO to be 4 triggers every day.

5 X-Ray Observation with UBAT of UFFO/*Lomonosov*

The UBAT is a coded mask aperture shadow camera. GRBs will be localized by the UBAT at the confidence level of 7σ to a region 10 arcmin across, thus contained fully within the FOV of the SMT. From the fact that we make no specific requirements on energy resolution or flux measurements, the coded mask technique would be the best way to obtain large FOV for hard X-rays in the energy range of about 10 to 200 keV with an excellent location accuracy. This is true for the UBAT which has modest detection area, i.e. smaller than *Swift* BAT by factor 25, so the UBAT needs 25 times longer collection time to recognize the same burst, assuming the same detection efficiency. We found that *Swift* can trigger (rate trigger) GRBs typically with 50 ms of the collection time of X-rays. That is, 50 ms is the mean value. It implies that we will have 50% of *Swift* bursts within 1.25 s collection time. The trigger window for the UBAT is set to be between 1–64 s. Our estimate is to see 60% of *Swift* BAT bursts with about 1.5 s of collection time. Figure 6 shows the calculation of the UBAT sensitivity in comparison to Swift BAT, SVOM, Fermi GBM, and BATSE sensitivities. The sensitivity is specified in the form of a graph of detection threshold, i.e. peak flux sensitivity versus GRB spectral peak energy E_{peak} (see Band 2003, and $\alpha = -1$, $\beta = -2$ are chosen). The nominal value of signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) used in UBAT is 8, while effective detection area of 0.88, solid angle of 1.8, and mask open fraction of 0.45 are used in the calculation of sensitivity. On the other hand, a larger detection area of *Swift* BAT compared to UBAT greatly improves the localization accuracy, i.e. 1–4 arcmin for *Swift* as opposed to 10 arcmin for UBAT. We assume the number of BAT/*Swift* triggers to be about 100/year. Taking into account the duty cycle concerning day and night ration and chances

Fig. 6 The sensitivity of UBAT (blue solid line) in comparison to Swift/BAT (green dashed), SVOM/ECLAIR (red solid), Fermi/GBM (cyan solid dot) and BATSE (purple dot) in terms of peak flux sensitivity as a function of GRB spectral peak energy E_{peak} (Band (2003), and $\alpha = -1$ and $\beta = -2$ are chosen). The nominal value of SNR used in UBAT is 8, while $f_{\text{det}} = 0.88$, $\Omega = 1.8$ and $f_{\text{mask}} = 0.45$



of passing through SAA and polar regions,

$$\frac{60(\text{UBAT})}{100(\text{Swift BAT})} \times \frac{90}{75} (\text{SAA Crossing}) \times \frac{70}{100} (\text{daytime data taking}) \\ \times \frac{70}{100} (\text{polar crossing}) = 0.35.$$

Assuming 30% degradation by unknown factors, the UBAT foresees about 35% of Swift (~ 90 GRBs/year), that is, 20–30 events every year.

The UBAT hardware consists of three major components: a coded mask, detectors and electronics, and shield and hopper structures. The coded mask made of 1-mm thick Tungsten Alloy has randomized rectangular hole patterns, each area being $5.67 \times 5.67 \text{ mm}^2$, with a 44.5% open fraction (see red rectangle in Fig. 9). Shielding around the four sides against diffused X-ray backgrounds is made from passive layers of dense material. All electronics for analog readout, digital processing, trigger decision logic, high voltage distribution and interface to UDAQ are located underneath the MAPMT array, forming a compact structure of the UBAT detector, as shown in Fig. 7 (bottom left). Like SMT and UDAQ, all digital processing in UBAT are realized with FPGAs which provides great advantages in fast response, low power consumption and parallel processing and control. Figure 7 (top left) shows the integrated UBAT system, and major parameters including its mass, volume and power consumption are listed in Table 2.

The detection of X-rays is made by a 48×48 array of pixelated scintillators of YSO crystal, arranged in a 6×6 group of 8×8 pixel modules. The area and height of a pixel are $2.68 \times 2.68 \text{ mm}^2$ and 3.0 mm, respectively. YSO (Y_2SiO_5) is a Ce-doped (0.04%) crystal with a peak emission around 400 nm under X-ray excitation and an absorption efficiency of close to 100% for X-ray energy below 30 keV. It presents an excellent light yield of ~ 25 photons/keV similar to LSO (Lu_2SiO_5), but does not have inherent radiative noise unlike LSO.

The YSO array is attached on the 6×6 array of multi-anode photomultipliers (MAPMT, Hamamatsu R11265-03-M64, bi-alkali photocathode) each of 8×8 pixels. Each MAPMT is read out by a 64-channel SPACIROC ASIC. The MAPMT is ultimately sensitive by exhibiting a single photon counting with a gain of 10^6 , while having low thermal noise. The

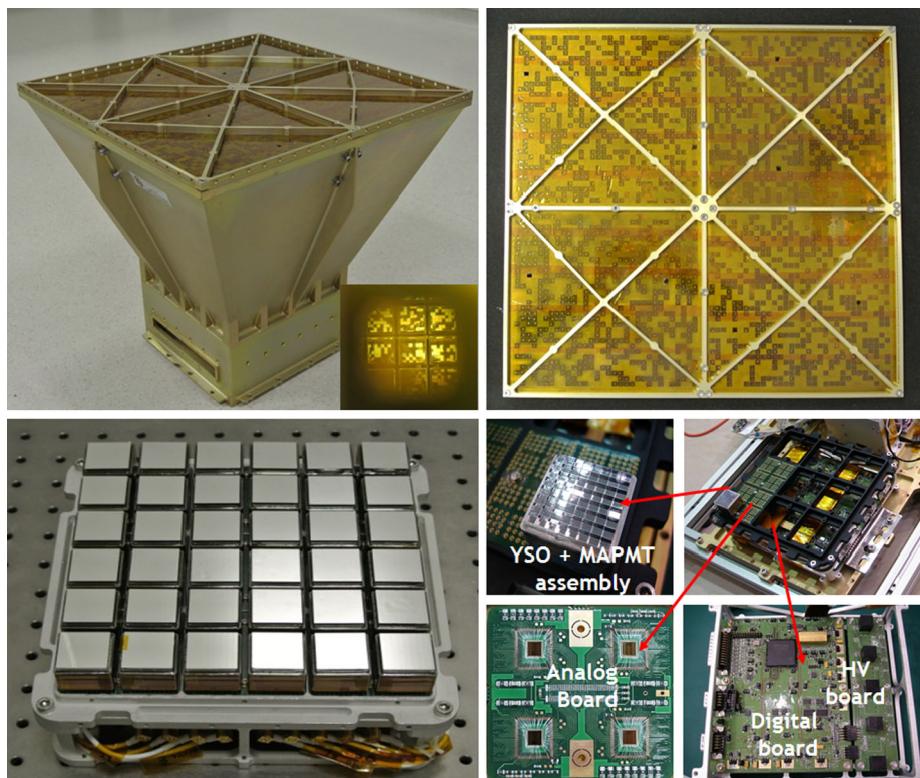


Fig. 7 The integrated UBAT system (*top left plot*). It includes the coded mask (*top right*) and the detector (*bottom left*). Assembly of the detector is shown in the *bottom right plot*

photocathode of MAPMT has a quantum efficiency of 30–35% at its spectral response range of 185–650 nm, so that UBAT is able to detect X-rays at the level of keV in principle.

When an X-ray hits an YSO pixel, some of the UV generated inside the YSO are refracted onto neighboring MAPMT pixels, which cause optical cross talk. The level of cross talk at the nearest neighbors is 30% of the signal, but is negligible at the next nearest neighbors. Therefore, any cross talk mostly appears at the nearest neighbors, and the observed hit patterns are mostly a cross pattern (with the pixel hit by X-ray at the center and with the remaining four pixels at the nearest neighbors), and some variants with the smaller number of pixels. We implemented a simple algorithm in a FPGA that finds the hit center from these distinctive patterns. Therefore the cross talk has no bearing on the instrument background. On the other hand, X-rays produce such distinctive hit patterns that we can use these patterns to identify, for example, X-ray events against cosmic backgrounds.

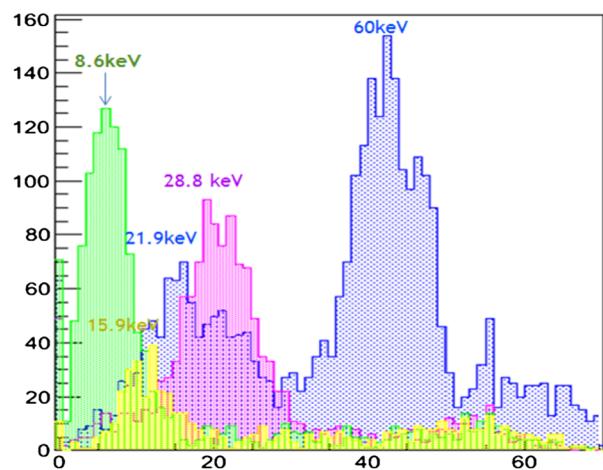
As shown in Fig. 8, we see that the UBAT is able to reproduce an X-ray peak at 8.6 keV with a spectral resolution of about 2 keV, which implies UBAT to be sensitive at 5 keV and even below. A detailed study of energy sensitivity will be reported later. Alternatively, the coded mask loses opacity for high energy x-rays, and YSO efficiency drops significantly at energies above 200 keV; in practice, the maximum energy detectable from the UBAT is limited to 200 keV.

Within a second time bin, a typical burst could alert UBAT by tripping a “rate trigger” which exhibits an excess in the total number of X-rays over the ambient background. The

Table 2 Parameters of UFFO/Lomonosov UBAT

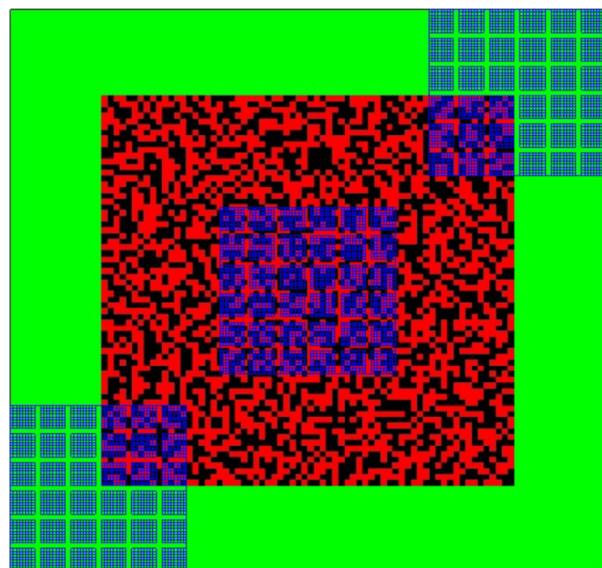
| Parameter or performance | UFFO/Lomonosov UBAT | <i>Swift</i> BAT |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Mass/volume/power consumption | 11 kg/400 × 400 × 365 mm ³ /10 W | |
| Coded mask material/thickness | W/1 mm | |
| Detector array | YSO crystal + MAPMT | CdZnTe |
| UBAT Field of View (half coded) | 70.4 × 70.4 deg ² (1.35 sr) | 100 × 60 deg ² (1.4 sr) |
| Detection area (effective area) | 191.1 cm ² (165.5 cm ²) | 5240 cm ² |
| Detection element | 48 × 48 pixels | 256 × 128 pixels |
| Pixel size | 2.8 × 2.8 mm ² | 4 × 4 mm ² |
| Sensitivity | 5–150 keV | 15–150 keV |
| GRB localization accuracy | 10 arcmin for >7σ detection | 1–4 arcmin |
| X-ray collection time | 1–64 | 0.025–64 |
| GRB position calculation time | 0.1 s | 5–7 s |
| Number of GRB localization per year | 20–30 (duty cycle & fluence taken into account) | ~100 |

Fig. 8 The response of the UBAT detector to different energies of X-rays illuminated from radioactive sources and an X-ray tube. X and y axes are ADC counts and number of entries, respectively



“image trigger” processing which locates a GRB runs in parallel with the same X-rays in independent logic units of a dedicated FPGA. The algorithm for the localization of a burst, called image trigger or correlation imaging, comes from the fact that UBAT detector pixels will see a subset of the mask pattern that is different depending on where the GRB is located in the UBAT field of view. Figure 9 shows how hit pattern of the detector (blue colored in the figure) best fits the mask pattern (red). To find the GRB location, the detector illumination pattern is placed on top of the mask pattern and moved around until a good fit or best correlation between the detector pattern and the mask hole pattern is found. The offset location

Fig. 9 Schematic demonstration of how a detector illumination pattern in a 58×58 pixel matrix (blue) changes with the GRB offset location from the UBAT z-axis—pointing away from the Earth center—on a 135×135 array of possible FOV locations. The actual detector pixel array is 48×48 , but a spacing of 2 pixels between the 8×8 modules is taken into account



(X, Y) of the center point of the detector pattern from the mask center point gives the location of the GRB, although in distance units, not angular units. If the mask height above the detector is H, then the GRB location vector for the SMT instrument is just (X, Y, H) or some normalized (x, y, h) version. The detailed description of the trigger algorithm which takes into account the drift of the satellite and different pixel response, as well as the hardware and the performance, is given in a separate paper in this issue.

After a positive rate trigger, the image trigger processor of UBAT starts to output the position of a burst candidate every second, and its probability in terms of a SNR. This image processing will last up to 64 seconds, depending on the brightness of GRBs. If the SNR becomes greater than a threshold value, currently set to be 7 as the default but changeable in space by uploading the list of run parameters, then the image trigger will be fired to start a subsequent slewing of the SMT to target the position followed by acquisition of both UBAT and SMT data. It is noted that the calculation of position and the decision of image trigger, called trigger latency, takes only less than a second to determine the position of GRB, thanks to FPGA's fast parallel processors. Short trigger latency in UFFO/Lomonosov would be an advanced feature over the previous space missions like *Swift* BAT. However, due to the limitation in power consumption which constrained the memory resource of the UBAT FPGA, the latency for the GRB localization turns out to be 1 s.

The performance of the UBAT, i.e., determination of the position and its accuracy for a given source, was tested by using an X-ray tube with energies below 50 keV. This mini-tube was placed 8 m away from the UBAT. The laboratory background rate was measured to be 0.84 cnts/s/cm², while the count rates resulting from the X-ray source on the detector below the mask were 0.73, 1.19, 2.24, and 4.10 cnts/s/cm². We found the image trigger with SNR = 7 in \sim 12 s, 11 s, 4 s, and 1 s, respectively. That is, the UBAT is capable of localizing sources with flux similar to the background level within a few seconds. Figure 10 shows the result of the image as an SNR map for the signal rate of 4.10 cnts/s/cm² (left) for which localization is made in a second. The center and right plots show the SNR map for the source rate of 0.73 cnts/s/cm² and the SNR

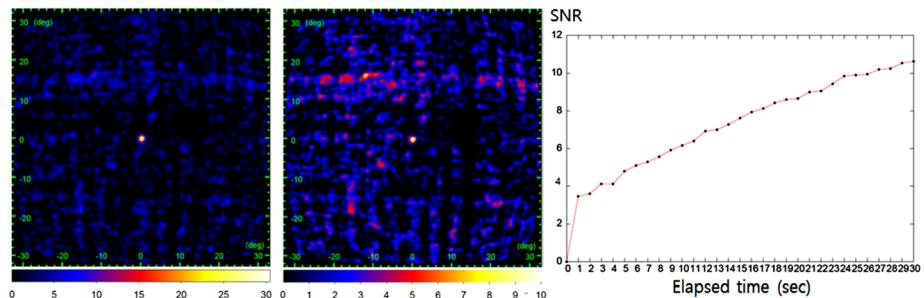


Fig. 10 The UBAT imaging of the sky as a function of SNR values for the signal rate of 4.10 cnts/s/cm^2 (left) right after one second of collection time, and 0.73 cnts/s/cm^2 (center) for which the right plot shows the SNR reaching 7 at 12 seconds of X-rays collection (right). The background rate was 0.84 cnts/s/cm^2 , the same for both tests

values as a function of elapsed time, respectively, i.e. 12 seconds are taken before SNR reaches 7. It is noted that a reliable localization can be made even with only half of the detector pixels with a little extension of collection time, which demonstrates the robustness of localization capability against possible aging effects in the detector channels in space.

6 UV/Optical Observation with SMT of UFFO/*Lomonosov*

As a key component of UFFO missions, a Slewing Mirror Telescope (SMT) was proposed for rapid response to prompt UV/optical photons from GRBs. The SMT of UFFO/*Lomonosov* consists of a fast slewing mirror mounted on a two-axis gimbal stage, placed in front of a Ritchey-Chrétien telescope (RC telescope), a focal plane detector, and associated readout and mirror control electronics. The parallel lights from GRB are always directed on axis to the RC telescope by the slewing mirror. The maximum tilting angle of the mirror is $\pm 35^\circ$, resulting in $70^\circ \times 70^\circ$ of an effective coverage of SMT which covers the half-coded FOV of UBAT.

The slewing mirror is made of *Zerodur* and has a diameter of 15-cm and a weight of 0.482 kg. It is driven by two geared stepping motors with sealed bearings that provide sub-second response over the entire FOV (± 90 deg) and a settling time of less than 350 ms. These electric motors driving the gimbal-mounted mirror are simple, robust, and space qualified. A precise motion control using a micro-stepping technique and a close-loop control using high resolution rotary encoders enable targeting resolution to be better than 2 arcmin.

The Ritchey-Chrétien type telescope was chosen to have a long focal length (f-number of 11.4) for an aperture of 100 mm diameter and FOV of 17×17 arcmin 2 . The optics system with the slewing mirror were fabricated not only for light but highly hardened against shock and vibrations at time of launch, and against degradation in optical performance by thermal stress in orbit. The primary and secondary mirrors were fabricated with a precision of about RMS 0.02 waves in wave front error (WFE) and 84.7% in average reflectivity over 200–650 nm. The entire SMT optics was aligned at an accuracy of RMS 0.05 waves in WFE at 632.8 nm.

The focal plane detector is an Intensified Charge-Coupled Device (ICCD) which consists of 256×256 monochromic pixels with a pixel FOV of 4×4 arcsec 2 . So the FOV of the

SMT is 17×17 arcmin 2 which is wide enough to contain a potential source of GRB triggered by UBAT, with a localization accuracy of 10 arcmin at 7σ . We chose a UV-enhanced S20 photocathode which is sensitive to photons of 200–650 nm in wavelength with quantum efficiencies of 40%, 70% and 20% at 200 nm, 400 nm, and 600 nm, respectively. Double multi-channel plates (MCPs) were adopted as an intensifier of ICCD for the amplification of photoelectrons at a gain up to 10^6 so that the focal detector operates in photon counting mode and thus SMT could observe faint objects up to ~ 19 magnitude in B-filter per 100 s, assuming the same performance as *Swift*. The gain of the intensifier can be adjusted from 10^3 to 10^6 by the control program. These photons are read out at a rate of 50 frames per second by a Kodak KAI-0340 interline CCD sensor (640×480 pixels, with a charge capacity of 40,000 electrons, and readout noise of 16 electrons) and a CCD signal processor with a 10-bit Analog-to-Digital Converter. Various control clocks for the CCD readout are implemented using a Field Programmable Gate Array (FPGA). The SMT records the arrival time of individual photons and provides positioning of sources with 4.3 arcsec (1σ width) point spread function (PSF). The angular resolution could be improved by a centroiding algorithm.

The SMT electronics controls the slewing mirror, reads out the ICCD, adjusts ICCD high voltage, monitors housekeeping sensors, and communicates with and transfers the ICCD data to the central data acquisition system of UFFO/Lomonosov (UDAQ). As with other space experiments, the UFFO/Lomonosov has substantial limitations both in power consumption and real-time processor speed. Additionally, the SMT requires fast algorithms to slew the mirror in response to the UBAT trigger. These requirements are satisfied by employing a FPGA in place of a CPU. The FPGA includes a variety of functions required for the SMT readout and control as well as the interface to the payload system. Apart from minimization of power consumption and enhancement of processing time, the best performance of the ICCD was realized through the customization of the control of CCD clocks and MCPs high voltages in the FPGA.

The entire system of SMT has been tested and satisfies the conditions of launch and those of operation in space: those associated with shock and vibration and those associated with thermal and vacuum, respectively.

Figure 11 shows the integrated SMT, and its major parameters are presented in Table 3. The details of SMT optics design, manufacture, integration and test including space qualification and laboratory scale end-to-end validation tests were reported in Jeong et al. (2013). The technical details of the focal plane detector and its associated electronics, as well as precision control of the slewing mirror, are found in Kim et al. (2013).

7 Expected GRB Brightness by UFFO/Lomonosov

The optical brightness of GRBs at their early phase, and their mechanisms, are hardly understood, so we assume two simple known cases to estimate GRB magnitudes at the SMT observation, that is, afterglows might dominate by forward shock ($\alpha \sim 1$) or reverse shock ($\alpha \sim 2$). The calculation from the data of UVOT shows ~ 0.0947 photons from a 17-magnitude GRB. Apparent optical magnitude distribution has a peak at 19.5 magnitude for 1000 s exposure (Akerlof and Swan 2007). GRB afterglows follow a power law decay ($F = t^\alpha$, temporal decay index is ~ 1 up to 500 s (Oates et al. 2015). Early optical glows could be contaminated by reverse shock, for which the temporal decay index would be 2. Figure 12 shows the sensitivity of the UFFO/Lomonosov SMT. The SMT has the frame exposure time of 20 ms, which is short enough to detect a burst as bright as 11.5 magnitude.



Fig. 11 The integrated SMT system which consists of RC telescope (*upper right*) wrapped by the baffle (*black cylinder*), ICCD and readout (*upper left gray*), and the slewing mirror (*bottom right*)

On the other hand, total observation time of SMT is 78 s, which is long enough to observe a burst of up to 19 magnitude. These values, 20 ms and 78 s, are default and changeable in orbit. It is noted that the SMT is able to detect very bright GRBs, i.e. 7 magnitude, by decreasing the gain of ICCD down to 10^3 . As shown in Table 3, this estimate is extracted from the following.

Nineteenth magnitude was calculated using a 10-cm aperture telescope with the same performance as *Swift* UVOT. UVOT can detect a $m_B = 22.3$ point source in 1000 s (http://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/swift/about_swift/uvot_desc.html).

A comparable 30-cm ground telescope is limited to 20 magnitude due to sky brightness. The star of 20 magnitude for 1000 s was measured to give 1300 photon counts using a white filter on ground. 1300 photons are expected in space as well. We assume in a conservative way that *Swift* can see a 22.3 magnitude star with 5 sigma. Then, one estimates the background in space to be 1600 in 1000 s for 30-cm aperture telescope. In our case for UFFO/Lomonosov, we are supposed to see the source of 19 magnitude at 8 sigma, because a 19-magnitude source gives 13 photons in 100 s for 10-cm aperture while the background is 1600, so $1300 \times 2.5/10/10/\sqrt{(1600/10/10)} = 8\sigma$. We have measured the performance of SMT in the lab by illuminating 4 photons on SMT and by taking into account the readout noise, which verifies that we are able to observe a source dimmer than 19 magnitude.

Table 3 Parameters of UFFO/Lomonosov SMT

| Parameter | UFFO/Lomonosov SMT | <i>Swift</i> UVOT |
|---|--|--|
| Telescope type | Ritchey-Chrétien + Slewing mirror | Modified Ritchey-Chrétien |
| Aperture | 10 cm | 30 cm |
| Field of View | 17×17 arcmin 2 over 70×70 deg 2 | 17×17 arcmin 2 |
| Wavelength range | 200–650 nm | 170–650 nm |
| Number of pixels | 256×256 | 256×256 |
| Physical pixel scale | 4 arcsec | 4 arcsec |
| Telescope PSF (centroiding) | 0.5 arcsec | 0.5 arcsec |
| UV/optical sensitivity | B = 19 mag in 100 s with 5σ | B = 24 (22.3) mag in 1000 s with 5σ |
| Data taking start time upon trigger | 1 s | 40–200 s, typically 80 s |
| Number of UV/optical observation per year | 10–20 (estimated from the extrapolation of early light curves) | ~40 |

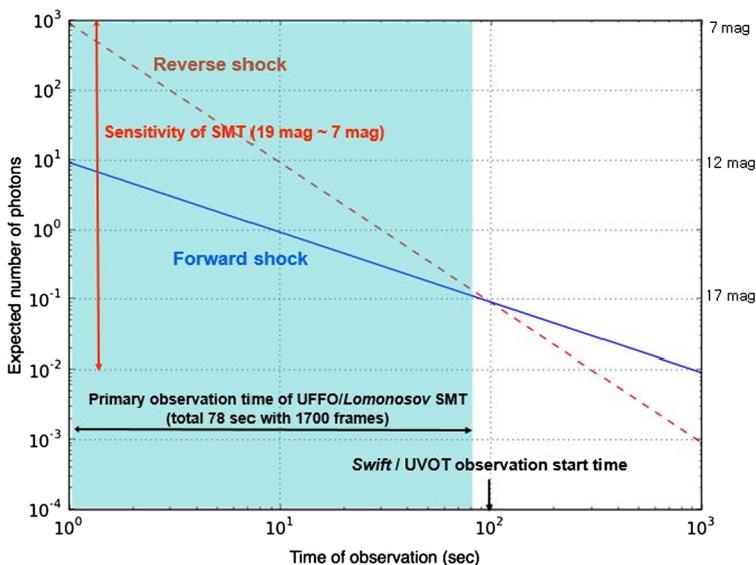


Fig. 12 The sensitivity (red colored arrow) in the unit of number of photons (left axis) and magnitude (right axis) and the primary observation time (black colored arrow) of the UFFO/Lomonosov SMT. The number of photons are the ones read into a pixel of the SMT for a 20-ms frame time, assuming Vega spectral type

8 On-orbit Operation of UFFO/Lomonosov

Since the launch, UFFO/Lomonosov has been tested and calibrated till the end of Nov. 2016 for which the UFFO instrument was powered on 20 times, each time orbiting once and running about 25 min. Several sets of parameters designed for X-ray trigger and alignment of the slewing mirror for a given direction were examined. Figure 13 shows the behavior of UFFO power consumption in terms of currents measured from 5 current sensors of UFFO.

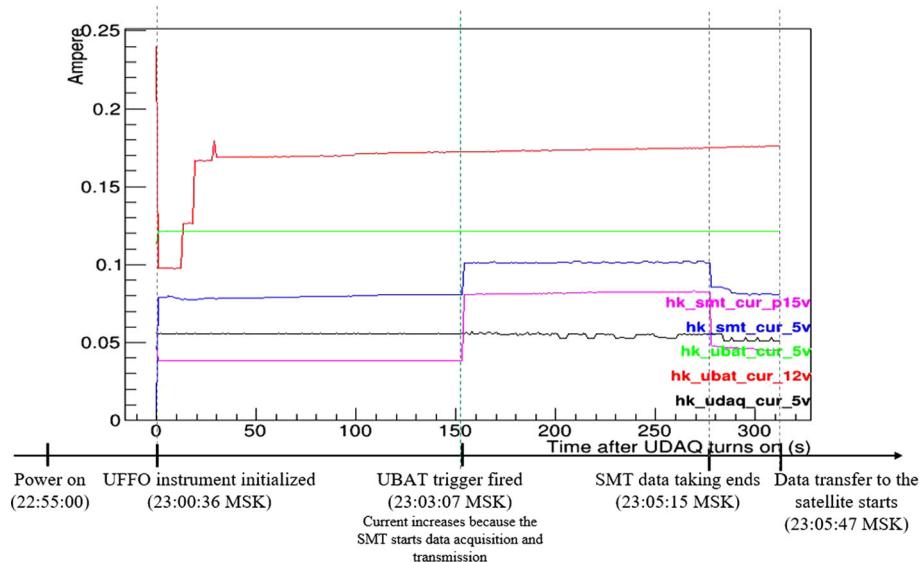
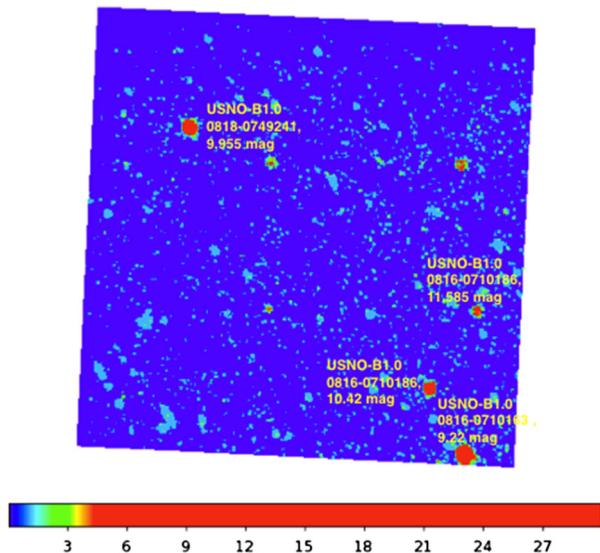


Fig. 13 The behavior of the UFFO instrument in terms of currents measured from 5 sensors. The running sequence was confirmed such that initialization of the instrument took 5 min and 36 s, then data taking of SMT and UBAT started on trigger, and finally data transfer to the satellite was made

Fig. 14 The sky image of SMT observed on Sep. 8, 2016 during the SMT calibration on orbit. The exposure time was 0.6 s. It has $17.7' \times 17.7'$ field of view. The image center lies at RA = 22:46:46.56, Dec = $-08:14:31.20$. Comparing the USNO B catalogue, we found the upper limit of SMT to be about 19 magnitude for 100 s as expected



The UFFO was found to run as designed, i.e., after initialization of the instrument, trigger occurred which enabled data taking of SMT and UBAT, followed by data transfer to the satellite. We tested such a run sequencing several times to find working as designed. In this calibration, we set the trigger threshold low enough on purpose to generate a false trigger from backgrounds.

Figures 14 shows a sky image obtained by SMT on Sep. 8, 2016 for a calibration run of the UFFO. The exposure time was 0.6 s. The SMT has $17.7' \times 17.7'$ field of view. The image center lies at RA = 22:46:46.56, Dec = −08:14:31.20. Comparing the USNO B catalogue, we found the upper limit of SMT to be about 19 magnitude for 100 s, which agrees with the designed.

9 Summary

The UFFO/*Lomonosov* has been successfully launched into Earth orbit and is operational through tests and calibrations for last several months. As a pathfinder, it will be the very first space instrument to use a fast slewing mirror which shortens the trigger latency significantly, less than a second, to pioneer the hitherto unexplored time domain nature and the rise phase of GRBs. It will respond to initial photons within a couple of seconds after GRB detection, which improves on current response times by a couple of orders of magnitude. The number of GRBs with rising light curve is expected to be 10–20 per year, depending on the magnitude of GRBs at their early phase. We foresee not only such outcomes but the proof-of-principle of this new approach for future GRB missions.

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