

## SWIFT DATA RELEASE PLAN

Version 1 by F. Marshall August 7, 2001

Version 2 update by N. Gehrels and L. Angelini September 6, 2004

The Swift data release policy is as follows:

After launch there will be a 45-day period of observatory activation and check out followed by a 3-month verification phase.

1. During the 45 day activation phase, the instrument teams will have access to the data to activate and check out their instruments. If a GRB is detected and verified to be a real event, it will be sent out after verification as a GCN message.

2. After 45 days, but before the end of the verification phase, GRB alert messages transmitted via TDRSS will be distributed to the community via the GCN after verification by the instrument teams. The HEASARC and SDC will make all data available to the Swift team, including Malindi data during the verification phase by encrypting the data in the archive. These include Malindi data and TDRSS messages.

3. Starting at the end of the verification phase, all science, housekeeping and auxiliary data and standard analysis products will be released to the community as FITS files immediately after processing in the Swift Data Center.

4 It is anticipated that much of the data taken before the end of the verification phase will require reprocessing. Observations that do not require reprocessing will be released at the end of the verification phase. Observations requiring reprocessing will be released immediately after the reprocessing of the data for that observation is complete. All useful data from the verification phase will be released no later than 6 months after the end of the verification phase.

5. Data from all transients detected by Swift, GRB and non-GRB, will be sent to the community via the GCN and/or IAU Circulars and/or ATELS as quickly as possible. More detailed data will be released via the Web as quickly as possible. Alerts will begin after the 45-day activation and check-out period.

6. Results from the BAT hard X-ray survey and the XRT serendipitous source survey will be released to the community no later than 12 months after launch. The survey results will be updated at least as often as every 6 months thereafter. They will include maps, source catalogs, and data products for the detected sources.

7. Science analysis programs and the relevant calibration data to produce light curves and spectra in physical units using the BAT event data will be released to the community at the time of launch. The programs and calibrations will be updated before the end of the verification phase. BAT event data are only acquired and sent to the ground during an approximately 10-minute interval surrounding the

beginning of the GRB; data are acquired in survey histogram mode at other times. Analysis software to determine source positions and light curves from the BAT survey data will be released before the end of the verification phase. The low level mask deconvolution software will be released with the warning that it will take up to 1 year to understand systematics of the instrument and optimize the algorithms.

8. Science analysis programs and the relevant calibration data to produce images, light curves, and spectra in physical units using XRT and UVOT data will be released to the community before launch. A second software release with updated calibration data using on-orbit calibrations will be released before the end of the verification phase.

**Notes:**

The HEASARC is not responsible for releasing results from the XRT and BAT surveys to the Swift team before the results are available to the community.