SWIFT DISCOVERY OF GAMMA-RAY BURSTS WITHOUT A JET BREAK FEATURE IN THEIR X-RAY AFTERGLOWS

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ABSTRACT

We analyze Swift gamma-ray bursts (GRBs) and X-ray afterglows for three GRBs with spectroscopic redshift determinations: GRB 050401, XRF 050416a, and GRB 050525a. We find that the relation between spectral peak energy and isotropic energy of prompt emissions (the Amati relation) is consistent with that for the bursts observed in the pre-Swift era. However, we find that the X-ray afterglow light curves, which extend up to 10-70 days, show no sign of the jet break that is expected in the standard framework of collimated outflows. We do so by showing that none of the X-ray afterglow light curves in our sample satisfy the relation between the spectral and temporal indices that is predicted for the phase after jet break. The jet break time can be predicted by inverting the tight empirical relation between the peak energy of the spectrum and the collimation-corrected energy of the prompt emission (the Ghirlanda relation). We find that there are no temporal breaks within the predicted time intervals in X-ray band. This requires either that the Ghirlanda relation has a larger scatter than previously thought, that the temporal break in X-rays is masked by some additional source of X-ray emission, or that it does not happen for some unknown reason.

Subject headings: gamma rays: bursts — ISM: jets and outflows — radiation mechanisms: nonthermal

1. INTRODUCTION

The Swift satellite (Gehrels et al. 2004) has enabled the acquisition of early, dense, and detailed data on the X-ray afterglows of gamma-ray bursts (GRBs; e.g., Burrows et al. 2005a; Tagliaferri et al. 2005; O'Brien et al. 2006). Analysis of X-ray telescope (XRT; Burrows et al. 2005b) data has revealed complex temporal behavior in the early phase of the afterglow (Nousek et al. 2006; Zhang et al. 2006; O'Brien et al. 2006). In addition to investigating the early phase of the X-ray afterglows, we can study the temporal and spectral properties of the X-ray afterglows at later times ($\gtrsim 10^4$ s), which had been studied mainly using optical data before the Swift era. It is widely believed that the GRBs arise from collimated outflows (i.e., jets). This picture is supported by the break from a shallower to a steeper slope that is observed in many afterglow light curves at around 1 day after the burst (Sari et al. 1999). These breaks are interpreted as being due to the geometrical effect caused by the inverse of the bulk Lorentz factor of the jet becoming larger than the physical opening angle of the jet and to a hydrodynamical transition of the jet (i.e., a broadening of the jet), which is expected to occur shortly afterward. The break is therefore expected to be independent of wavelength (i.e.,

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achromatic). Importantly, in the standard synchrotron-shock model (Sari et al. 1998), the observed flux above the cooling frequency does not depend on the density of ambient matter. Consequently, the X-ray afterglow is expected to be less variable than the optical one. Hence, observations of X-ray afterglows are a useful tool for studying the jet break.

In this paper, we investigate the presence or absence of a jet break in the X-ray afterglows of recent Swift GRBs. According to Frail et al. (2001) and Bloom et al. (2003), given the observed jet break time, we can calculate the jet opening angle and thereby the collimation-corrected gamma-ray energy (E_{γ}) . After correcting for the jet collimation, E_{γ} shows a tight correlation with the peak energy $E_{\text{peak}}^{\text{src}}$ of the νF_{ν} spectrum in the source frame, $E_{\text{peak}}^{\text{src}} \propto E_{\gamma}^{0.7}$ (the Ghirlanda relation; Ghirlanda et al. 2004a). For Swift GRBs in which one can obtain both $E_{\text{peak}}^{\text{src}}$ and the isotropic-equivalent gamma-ray energy $E_{\text{iso}} = E_{\gamma}/(1 - \cos \theta_j)$, where θ_j is the opening half angle of the jet, the Ghirlanda relation can be inverted to predict the value of θ_i and hence the jet break time. The X-ray afterglow can then be investigated to find out whether a jet break is present at the expected epoch. Hence, we can check the validity of the Ghirlanda relation found for pre-Swift bursts using mainly optical observations, and also the validity of the theory of the jet break established in the pre-Swift era.

2. DATA ANALYSIS

2.1. Data Selection

In order to be able to do the analysis described above, both prompt and afterglow data are necessary. Among the 10 Swift long GRBs with measured redshifts detected before 2005 July, we find, for seven of them, either that the peak energy is hard to constrain or that the XRT light curve was not observed for long enough. We have thus selected the other three well-sampled bursts (GRB 050401, XRF 050416a, and GRB 050525a) for our study.

The prompt emission of GRBs has a spectrum that is well described by the Band function (Band et al. 1993). We calculate the "bolometric" isotropic-equivalent gamma-ray energy, E_{iso} , in

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 TABLE 1

 Redshifts, Durations, and Emission Properties of Three Swift GRBs

GRB	Redshift	<i>T</i> ₉₀ (s)	Peak 1 s Flux in 15–150 keV (ergs cm ⁻² s ⁻¹)	Fluence in 15–150 keV (ergs cm ⁻²)	Observing Instruments
050401 050416a 050525a	2.9 0.65 0.606	34.3 2.4 8.9	$\begin{array}{c} 9.26\substack{+0.72\\-0.72}\times10^{-7}\\ 2.02\substack{+0.20\\-0.20}\times10^{-7}\\ 3.62\substack{+0.06\\-0.06}\times10^{-6}\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 8.49\substack{+0.32\\-0.32}\times10^{-6}\\ 3.36\substack{+0.34\\-0.32}\times10^{-7}\\ 1.62\substack{+0.2\\-0.02}\times10^{-5} \end{array}$	Swift BAT, Swift XRT, VLT, Optical, ROTSE, Siding Spring Swift BAT, Swift XRT, Keck Swift BAT, Swift XRT, Swift UVOT, VLA INTEGRAL, Spitzer, HST, Numerous Optical & near-IR

the source frame by integrating the best-fit model for the timeaveraged spectrum over the energy range $1-10^4$ keV. In order to do this, it is necessary to know the overall shape of the spectrum, and therefore the three parameters of the Band function. In the cases of GRB 050525a and XRF 050416a, we find that the peak energy, E_{peak}^{obs} , of the gamma-ray spectrum falls within the energy range of *Swift* Burst Alert Telescope (BAT; 15–150 keV; Barthelmy et al. 2005). The Band function gives a significantly better fit than does a single power-law (PL) model or a powerlaw times exponential (PLE) model, and adequately describes the BAT spectral data for these two bursts. In the case of GRB 050401, E_{peak}^{obs} falls outside the energy range of BAT. Since GRB 050401 was simultaneously observed (Golenetskii et al. 2005) by Konus-*Wind* (20 keV–14 MeV; Aptekar et al. 1995), we utilize the Konus-*Wind* spectral data to find E_{peak}^{obs} .

Here, we describe the results of the spectral and temporal analyses that we performed on the prompt emission and X-ray afterglow of each burst. Table 1 gives the redshift, T_{90} duration, peak photon energy flux, and photon energy fluence determined from our analyses, while Table 2 summarizes the best-fit spectral parameters for the prompt emission and the X-ray afterglow for each burst. Throughout this paper, we use HEAsoft 6.0, which includes the *Swift* software package (release 2005 August 8). We also adopt a cosmological model with $\Omega_m = 0.3$, $\Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.7$, and $H_0 =$ 70 km s⁻¹ Mpc⁻¹. Errors quoted are at the 90% confidence level unless otherwise stated.

2.2. GRB 050401

GRB 050401 was detected and localized by the *Swift* BAT at 14:20:15 UTC on 2005 April 1 (Barbier et al. 2005). *Swift* autonomously slewed to the GRB position, and the XRT found the X-ray afterglow emission at (R.A., decl.) = $(16^{h}31^{m}28.85^{s}, +02^{\circ}11'14.4'')$ with a 90% error radius of 3.3'' (Moretti et al. 2006). The optical afterglow emission was also detected with several ground observations (e.g., Rykoff et al. 2005). Fynbo et al. (2005) detected several absorption lines consistent with absorption systems at redshifts z = 2.50 and 2.90. Following these authors, we adopt z = 2.90.

We first analyze the *Swift* BAT data for the prompt emission. We subtract the background using the modulations of the coded aperture mask (mask-weight technique). The prompt emission has a T_{90} duration of 34.3 s. The *Swift* BAT time-averaged spectral data in 15–150 keV is adequately fit by a single power-law model $[N(E) \propto E^{-\Gamma}]$ and gives a photon index of $\Gamma = 1.54 \pm 0.07$ with $\chi^2_{\nu} = 0.73$ (58 degrees of freedom [dof]). Neither the Band function nor the cutoff power-law model improves the fit significantly. We then analyzed the time-averaged spectral data from Konus-*Wind*, which has a wider energy range. We used the spectral data from an adjacent time domain to subtract the background from the spectral data during the burst. We then fit to the data to a power-law (PL) model, a power-law times exponential model (PLE), and a Band function,

$$N(E) \propto \begin{cases} E^{\alpha_{\rm B}} \exp(-E/E_0) & \text{for } E < (\alpha_{\rm B} - \beta_{\rm B})E_0, \\ E^{\beta_{\rm B}} & \text{for } E \ge (\alpha_{\rm B} - \beta_{\rm B})E_0, \end{cases}$$

where $\nu F(\nu)$ peaks at $E_{\text{peak}}^{\text{obs}} = (\alpha_{\text{B}} + 2)E_0$. We find $\chi_{\nu}^2 = 2.38$ (58 dof), 1.12 (57 dof), and 1.00 (56 dof), respectively. Thus, the spectral data strongly requests the Band function over the PL and PLE models. The best-fit values and uncertainties for the Band function parameters obtained in this way are $E_{\text{peak}}^{\text{obs}} = 115_{-16}^{+19}$ keV, $\alpha_{\text{B}} = -0.87_{-0.27}^{+0.36}$, and $\beta_{\text{B}} = -2.47_{-0.36}^{+0.21}$, respectively. Using the redshift z = 2.90, the peak energy at the rest frame of the GRB is determined as $E_{\text{peak}}^{\text{src}} = 447_{-64}^{+75}$ keV, and the isotropic energy as $E_{\text{iso}} = 3.43_{-0.34}^{+0.37} \times 10^{53}$ ergs over 1 keV to 10 MeV.

We next analyze the *Swift* XRT data for the event. The XRT acquired data mainly in Windowed Timing (WT) mode in the first ~10,000 s from the BAT trigger, and then switched to Photon Counting (PC) mode according to the source count rate. We used XSELECT to extract source and background counts from the cleaned event list (0.5–10.0 keV), using the standard grade selections of 0–12 for PC mode data, and of 0–2 for WT mode data. We calculate the source light curve and spectrum from a region with a length of 80" in uncompressed direction for WT mode, and a circular region with a radius of 47" for PC mode. We extract the background light curves and spectra from outer regions, excluding other X-ray sources that are visible in the XRT image. We converted the count rate to the unabsorbed flux in the 2–10 keV energy band using the best-fit spectral model.

Figure 1 shows the background-subtracted 2–10 keV light curve. The X-ray afterglow of GRB 050401 faded slowly with a

TABLE 2 PROMPT EMISSION SPECTRAL PARAMETERS AND X-RAY AFTERGLOW TEMPORAL AND SPECTRAL PARAMETERS

GRB	$\alpha_{\rm B}$	$\beta_{\rm B}$	$E_{\rm peak}^{\rm obs}$ (keV)	$E_{\rm peak}^{ m src}$ (keV)	$E_{\rm iso}$ (10 ⁵² ergs)	<i>t</i> _b (s)	α_1	α ₂	Γ_1	Γ_2
050401 050416a 050525a	$-0.87^{+0.36}_{-0.27}$ $-0.97^{+0.11}_{-0.10}$	$\begin{array}{r} -2.47^{+0.21}_{-0.36} \\ <-3.35 \\ <-2.55 \end{array}$	$115^{+19}_{-16} \\ 17.3^{+3.0}_{-8.0} \\ 78.2^{+4.7}_{-1.6}$	$\begin{array}{r} 447^{+75}_{-64}\\ 28.5^{+5.0}_{-13.2}\\ 125.6^{+7.6}_{-2.6}\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 34.3^{+3.7}_{-3.4} \\ 0.083^{+0.065}_{-0.013} \\ 2.23^{+0.03}_{-0.11} \end{array}$	5390 ± 450 1670 ± 600 10600 ± 3300	$\begin{array}{c} -0.57 \pm 0.02 \\ -0.55 \pm 0.06 \\ -1.18 \pm 0.02 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} -1.34 \pm 0.05 \\ -0.82 \pm 0.02 \\ -1.51 \pm 0.06 \end{array}$	$2.03^{+0.05}_{-0.05}\\2.20^{+0.27}_{-0.24}\\1.92^{+0.05}_{-0.05}$	$1.98^{+0.26}_{-0.24}\\2.04^{+0.16}_{-0.15}\\2.11^{+0.28}_{-0.39}$

Notes. $-\alpha_{B}$, β_{B} , E_{peak}^{obs} and E_{peak}^{src} are the parameters of the Band function. E_{iso} is calculated in 1–10⁴ keV, t_b is break time observed in X-ray band, α_1 and α_2 are decay indices of the X-ray afterglows before and after t_b , and Γ_1 and Γ_2 are photon indices of the X-ray afterglows before and after t_b .



Fig. 1.—X-ray afterglow light curve of GRB 050401 in the 2–10 keV energy band. In order to satisfy the Ghirlanda relation between E_{peak}^{src} and E_{γ} , the X-ray light curve should exhibit a jet break within the time interval indicated by the vertical lines. The dash-dotted, dashed, and solid lines show, respectively, the allowed time intervals without assuming a particular value of $n\eta_{\gamma}$ and taking into account the errors in E_{iso} and E_{peak}^{src} in eq. (3); assuming a particular value of $n\eta_{\gamma}$ and taking into account the errors in E_{iso} and E_{peak}^{src} ; and assuming a particular value of $n\eta_{\gamma}$ and taking without taking into account the errors in E_{iso} and E_{peak}^{src} , where *n* is the number density of the ambient (uniform) medium, and η_{γ} is the efficiency of the shock in converting the energy in the ejecta into gamma-rays. See § 3.1 for further explanation.

very shallow temporal index in the time interval from T + 134 to T + 2484 s, where T represents the trigger time of the BAT. Extrapolating the initial slope to late times, the WT data in T + 7414-T + 8274 s and the PC mode data in T + 13,486-T + 14,066 s clearly have lower fluxes than expected. The XRT also detected the fading afterglow at a later time between T + 4.4 and T + 7.2 days. Including these data points, the best fit to the overall light curve is given by a broken power-law model,

$$F(t) \propto \begin{cases} t^{\alpha_1} & \text{for } t < t_b, \\ t^{\alpha_2} & \text{for } t \ge t_b. \end{cases}$$

The best-fit model gives $\chi^2_{\nu} = 1.59$ (29 dof), with best-fit parameters $\alpha_1 = -0.57 \pm 0.02$, $\alpha_2 = -1.34 \pm 0.05$, and $t_b = 5390 \pm 450$ s. This result is consistent with that of De Pasquale et al. (2006). We have also analyzed the spectral data before and after the temporal break. We find that both spectra are well fit by a power-law model. The best-fit model requests more absorption than the value $N_{\rm H} = 4.9 \times 10^{20}$ cm⁻² expected for the galaxy alone. We have therefore added absorption at the redshift of the GRB (z = 2.90) to the model. The best-fit parameters are $\Gamma = 2.03^{+0.05}_{-0.05}$ and $N_{\rm H}^z = 3.7^{+0.5}_{-0.5} \times 10^{22}$ cm⁻² ($\chi^2_{\nu} = 1.15$ [241 dof]) prior to the break and $\Gamma = 1.98^{+0.26}_{-0.24}$ and $N_{\rm H}^z = 3.0^{+3.1}_{-2.5} \times 10^{22}$ cm⁻² ($\chi^2_{\nu} = 0.65$ [22 dof]) after the break. There is therefore no significant evidence for evolution of the spectral shape from before the break to after it, taking into account the uncertainties in the spectral parameters.

2.3. XRF 050416a

The X-ray flash XRF 050416a was detected and localized by the *Swift* BAT at 11:04:44.5 UTC on 2005 April 16 (Sakamoto et al. 2005). *Swift* autonomously slewed to the GRB position and *Swift* XRT found the X-ray afterglow emission at (R.A., decl.) = $(12^{h}33^{m}54.63^{s}, +21^{\circ}03'27.3'')$ with a 90% error radius of 3.3'' (Moretti et al. 2006). The detailed analysis of the BAT, XRT, and UVOT data are reported in several papers (BAT, Sakamoto et al. 2006; XRT, Mangano et al. 2006; UVOT, Holland et al. 2007). The spectrum of the host galaxy of XRF 050416a was obtained using the 10 m Keck I telescope; the host galaxy is faint and blue with a high star formation rate, and its redshift is $z = 0.6535 \pm 0.0002$ (Cenko et al. 2005).

The prompt emission had a duration of $T_{90} = 2.4$ s. XRF 050416a is the softest burst observed by Swift BAT as of 2005 July. Sakamoto et al. (2006) showed that the time-averaged spectrum is much steeper than the photon index of $\Gamma = 2$, indicating the spectral peak lies at the lower end of or below the BAT energy range. Following these authors, we adopt the Band function model with a fixed $\alpha_{\rm B} = -1$, which is the typical value for BATSE GRBs (Kaneko et al. 2006). The fit gives $E_{\text{peak}}^{\text{obs}} = 18.0^{+3.9}_{-2.9}$ keV. In order to take into account the uncertainty in the low-energy photon index, which may affect the total isotropic energy, E_{iso} , we have performed spectral fits to the Swift BAT spectral data, varying $\alpha_{\rm B}$ from -1.5 to -0.67. These limits correspond to the indices predicted for a spectrum in the fast cooling phase, i.e., with ν_c < $\nu < \nu_m$ and $\nu < \nu_c$, respectively (Sari et al. 1998), where ν_c is the synchrotron cooling frequency and ν_m is the synchrotron frequency of electrons with the minimum energy. We then find the best-fit values of the Band function parameters and their uncertainties to be $E_{\text{peak}}^{\text{obs}} = 17.3_{-8.0}^{+3.0} \text{ keV}$ and $\beta_{\text{B}} < -3.35$ with $\chi_{\nu}^2 = 0.80$ (56 dof). Using the observed redshift of z = 0.6535, we find $E_{\text{peak}}^{\text{src}} = 28.5_{-13.2}^{+5.0} \text{ keV}$, and $E_{\text{iso}} = 8.3_{-1.3}^{+6.5} \times 10^{50} \text{ ergs}$. The XRT data were acquired in PC mode throughout the ob-

The XRT data were acquired in PC mode throughout the observation. We extracted the light curves and spectra from the data in a circular region with a radius of 47". The data obtained in PC mode sometimes suffered from pileup, especially when the count rate was higher than 0.5 counts s⁻¹ (Nousek et al. 2006). For this burst, the XRT count rate exceeded this limit for the first ~500 s of the observation. From image analysis, we find the central region with radius of 6" deviates from the XRT point-spread function. We therefore excluded the events in this region when we derived the source light curve and spectrum for the time interval T + 94-T + 596 s; we used the full region of the circle with radius of 47" in the later period. The effective area was corrected using the calibration data and the FTOOL xrtmkarf.

Figure 2 shows the background-subtracted 2–10 keV light curve The light curve is well fit by a broken power law with $\chi^2_{\nu} =$ 1.12 (32 dof). There is an indication of a break in the light curve at $t_b = 1670 \pm 600$ s, which is also reported by Nousek et al. (2006). The decay index is $\alpha_1 = -0.55 \pm 0.06$ before the break and $\alpha_2 = -0.82 \pm 0.03$ after it. Strikingly, the light curve shows a shallow decay extending to ~74.5 days after the trigger. The spectral data before and after the break are both well fit by a powerlaw model with galactic absorption ($N_{\rm H} = 3.4 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$) and an additional absorption component at the redshift of the GRB (z = 0.6535). The best-fit parameters are $\Gamma = 2.20^{+0.27}_{-0.24}$ and $N_{\rm H}^z =$ $7.3^{+3.7}_{-3.2} \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ ($\chi^2_{\nu} = 1.38$ [20 dof]) before the break and $\Gamma = 2.04^{+0.16}_{-0.15}$ and $N_{\rm H}^z = 5.5^{+2.2}_{-1.9} \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ ($\chi^2_{\nu} = 0.93$ [64 dof]) after the break. Thus, there is no significant evidence for spectral evolution after taking into account the uncertainties in the spectral parameters.

2.4. GRB 050525a

GRB 050525a was a very bright GRB that was detected and localized by the *Swift* BAT at 00:02:52.8 UTC on 2005 May 25 (Band et al. 2005). *Swift* autonomously slewed to the GRB position, and *Swift* XRT and UVOT started their observations about 100 s after the trigger, and both found a fading source. The optical



FIG. 2.—Same as Fig. 1, but for XRF 050416a.

coordinates are (R.A., decl.) = $(18^{h}32^{m}32.62^{s}, +26^{\circ}20'21.6'')$ with an estimated uncertainty of 0.2'' (Blustin et al. 2006). Foley et al. (2005) used GMOS on the Gemini-North telescope to obtain an optical spectrum of the burst and reported that the redshift of the host galaxy is z = 0.606 based on [O III] λ 5007 and H β emission and Ca H and K and Ca I λ 4228 absorption.

The prompt emission had a duration of $T_{90} = 8.9$ s. We fit the *Swift*-BAT time-averaged spectral data using a power-law (PL) model, a power-law times exponential (PLE) model, and a Band function. We find $\chi^2_{\nu} = 3.30$ (58 dof), 0.26 (57 dof), and 0.27 (56 dof). Thus, both the PLE model and the Band function are acceptable. We here employ the Band function to constrain the upper limit on the higher energy index (β_B) and adequately include the uncertainty into the calculation of E_{iso} . The Band function fit to the *Swift* BAT time-averaged spectrum in 15–150 keV gives best-fit parameters $E_{peak}^{obs} = 78.2^{+4.7}_{-1.6}$ keV, $\alpha_B = -0.97^{+0.11}_{-0.10}$, and $\beta_B < -2.55$. Using the observed redshift of z = 0.606, we find $E_{peak}^{src} = 125.6^{+7.6}_{-2.6}$ keV and $E_{iso} = 2.23^{+0.03}_{-0.11} \times 10^{52}$ ergs.

The X-ray afterglow was very bright just after the trigger. Hence, the observation was made first in Photo-Diode (PD) mode and was switched to PC mode after T + 5859 s. No WT data were taken because of engineering tests that were being performed at the time of the burst. Since we cannot eliminate photons from the calibration source in PD mode, we use PD data in the 0.5-4.5 keV band, while we use PC data in 0.5-10.0 keV. Figure 3 shows the background subtracted 2-10 keV light curve. We extrapolated the spectrum in PD mode to the wider band when making the light curve. The last 2 points (T + 10.0 and T + 35.0 days) are not considered in Blustin et al. (2006), whose result for < T +5.4 days is consistent with ours. In the time interval from T +280 to T + 1048 s, we can see an excess above the fitted line. Following Blustin et al. (2006), we identify the excess with a weak flare. If we fit the data excluding the flare regime and the last upper limit, a broken power-law model gives $\chi^2_{\nu} = 0.54$ (27 dof), with best-fit parameters $\alpha_1 = -1.18 \pm 0.02$, $\alpha_2 = -1.51 \pm 0.06$, and $t_b = 10600 \pm 3300$ s. The spectral data before and after the break are extracted from the entire PD data and the PC data after break, respectively. Both spectra are well fit by a power-law model with a galactic absorption ($N_{\rm H} = 9.1 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$) and an additional absorption at the redshift of the GRB (z = 0.606). The best-fit parameters are $\Gamma = 1.92^{+0.05}_{-0.05}$ and $N_{\rm H}^z = 2.6^{+0.4}_{-0.4} \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$



FIG. 3.—Same as Fig. 1, but for GRB 050525a.

 $(\chi_{\nu}^2 = 1.09 [271 \text{ dof }])$ before the break and $\Gamma = 2.11^{+0.28}_{-0.39}$ and $N_{\rm H}^z = 1.5^{+3.6}_{-1.5} \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2} (\chi_{\nu}^2 = 0.79 [22 \text{ dof }])$ after the break. Thus, there is no significant evidence for spectral evolution after taking into account the uncertainties in the spectral parameters.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Investigation of Jet Break Features

Spectral parameters of the prompt emission are well constrained by the *Swift* BAT and Konus data plus the optically determined redshifts. Figure 4 shows the locations of GRBs in the



FIG. 4.—Locations of GRBs in the (E_{iso}, E_{peak}^{sc}) -plane, where E_{iso} is the isotropicequivalent energy and E_{peak}^{sc} is the peak energy of the burst spectrum in the rest frame of the burst. The three filled black circles correspond (from lower left to upper right) to XRF 050416a, GRB 050525a, and GRB 050401. The burst locations previously reported by Ghirlanda et al. (2004a) are shown as filled gray circles. The dashed and dot-dashed lines are the correlations between E_{iso} and E_{peak}^{sc} reported by Amati et al. (2002) and Ghirlanda et al. (2004a), respectively. The locations of XRF 050416a, GRB 050525a, and GRB 050401, derived from *Swift* and Konus-*Wind* observations, lie within the scatter of the previous E_{iso} - E_{peak}^{sc} relation.



Fig. 5.—Expected relation between the temporal index α and the spectral index $\beta(=-\Gamma+1)$, assuming a uniform density (corresponding to an ISM environment) and that the external shock has reached the slow-cooling phase. The open symbols show the locations of GRB 050401, XRF 050416a, and GRB 050525a prior to the X-ray break at t_b , while the closed symbols shows the locations of the three bursts after the break. None of the three bursts satisfy the postbreak relations expected in the standard afterglow model.

($E_{\rm iso}, E_{\rm peak}^{\rm src}$)-plane, where $E_{\rm iso}$ is the isotropic-equivalent energy and $E_{\rm peak}^{\rm src}$ is the peak energy of the burst spectrum in the rest frame of the burst. The burst locations previously reported by Ghirlanda et al. (2004a) are shown as filled gray circles. The dashed and dotdashed lines are the correlations between $E_{\rm iso}$ and $E_{\rm peak}^{\rm src}$ reported by Amati et al. (2002) and Ghirlanda et al. (2004a), respectively. The locations of XRF 050416a, GRB 050525a, and GRB 050401, derived from *Swift* and Konus-*Wind* observations, lie within the scatter of the Amati relation ($E_{\rm peak}^{\rm src} \propto E_{\rm iso}^{0.5}$, Amati et al. 2002). Although it has been suggested that the Amati relation may have a large intrinsic scatter (Nakar & Piran 2005; Band & Preece 2005; but see Ghirlanda et al. 2005; Bosnjak et al. 2007), the locations of the three bursts discussed in this paper lie close to the best-fit relations derived by Amati et al. (2002) and Ghirlanda et al. (2004a).

The X-ray follow-up observations for the three bursts start at $\sim T + 100$ s and end at T + 12.4 - T + 74.5 days. The X-ray afterglow light curves do not exhibit a steep decline at the beginning of the observations, although Mangano et al. (2006) and O'Brien et al. (2006) show that a fairly steep early decline can be seen for XRF 050416a by combining BAT data with XRT image mode and low-rate mode data. The light curves show breaks at an early epoch, $t_b \sim 10^3 - 10^4$ s, which is similar to the behavior seen in the X-ray afterglow of other bursts (Nousek et al. 2006; O'Brien et al. 2006). The decay slopes after the breaks are shallower than the $\propto t^{-2}$ behavior expected after the jet break (Sari et al. 1999; Dai & Cheng 2001).

We first consider the behavior of the X-ray afterglows of the three bursts within the framework of the standard afterglow model in the pre-*Swift* era. The jet decelerates rapidly after the sideways expansion becomes significant, and the external shock enters the slow-cooling phase (Sari et al. 1998). For example, if the cooling frequency lies below the X-ray band (i.e., $\nu > \nu_c$), the temporal decay index (α) and the energy spectral index ($\beta = -\Gamma + 1$) after the jet break are given by $\alpha = -p$ and $\beta = -p/2$, respectively,



FIG. 6.—Locations of GRBs in the $(E_{\gamma}, E_{\text{peak}}^{\text{sec}})$ -plane, where E_{γ} is the collimationcorrected energy and $E_{\text{peak}}^{\text{sec}}$ is the peak energy of the burst spectrum in the rest frame of the burst. The locations of the bursts in the samples of Ghirlanda et al. (2004a) are plotted as filled gray circles. All of the bursts with well-constrained values of E_{γ} and $E_{\text{peak}}^{\text{sec}}$ in the Ghirlanda et al. (2004a) sample lie inside the two solid diagonal lines corresponding to the Ghirlanda relation (eq. [1]) calculated for A = 1950 and 4380 keV. In the cases of GRB 050401, XRF 050416a, and GRB 050525a, no jet break was observed in the X-ray afterglow light curve at an epoch that would allow E_{γ} and $E_{\text{peak}}^{\text{sec}}$ to lie in the band between the two solid lines. The filled circles show the locations of the three bursts, assuming that the X-ray break observed at an early time t_b is, in fact, the jet break. The lower limits on E_{γ} for the three bursts assume that the jet break occurs after the last *Swift* XRT observation of the X-ray afterglow. In either case, E_{γ} lies outside of the band defined by the two diagonal solid lines for all the three *Swift* bursts.

where p > 2 is the power-law index of the electron energy distribution (Sari et al. 1999). Eliminating p gives a relation between α and β (the so-called α - β relation) $\alpha = 2\beta$. If $1 , the <math>\alpha$ - β relation takes a different form: $\beta = 2\alpha + 3$ (Dai & Cheng 2001). Similar formulae exist when the cooling frequency lies above the X-ray band (i.e., $\nu_m < \nu < \nu_c$), but this is likely to be true only at early times. The observed results for the three bursts are shown in Figure 5, together with the theoretical predictions of the α - β relations before and after the jet break, shown as dashed and dotted lines, respectively. It is clear that none of the observed data points is consistent with the theoretical prediction of the standard afterglow models after the jet break.

For each of the three events, we find no clear evidence of a jet break in the X-ray light curve earlier than 10^6 s after the trigger. We therefore invert the Ghirlanda relation to predict the jet break time for each of the three bursts that makes them satisfy the $E_{\text{peak}}^{\text{src}}-E_{\gamma}$ relation. The Ghirlanda relation is (Ghirlanda et al. 2004a)

$$E_{\rm peak}^{\rm src} = A E_{\gamma, 52}^{0.706}, \tag{1}$$

where $E_{\gamma} = (1 - \cos \theta_j) E_{iso}$ is the collimation-corrected energy and θ_j is the opening half-angle of the jet. Here we define $E_{\gamma, 52} = E_{\gamma}/10^{52}$ ergs. The relation is based on the jet breaks observed mainly in the optical band. However, the jet break should appear in the X-ray band at the same time that it appears in the optical band because the break is geometrical and hydrodynamical in origin. Figure 6 shows the correlation between E_{γ} and $E_{\text{peak}}^{\text{src}}$ for the GRB samples in Ghirlanda et al. (2004a). The left and right diagonal lines in the figure are for A = 4380 and 1950 keV,

respectively; the band between the two lines includes all of the central values of the locations of GRBs with well-constrained properties in the Ghirlanda et al. (2004a) samples. The expression for the jet break time is (Sari et al. 1999)

$$t_{\rm jet} = 130 \theta_j^{8/3} (1+z) \left(\frac{n\eta_{\gamma}}{E_{\rm iso,\,52}}\right)^{-1/3} \,\mathrm{days},$$
 (2)

where $E_{iso, 52}$, n, η_{γ} , and z are, respectively, the isotropic-equivalent energy in units of 10^{52} ergs, the number density of the ambient (uniform) medium, the efficiency of the shock in converting the energy in the ejecta into gamma-rays, and the source redshift. Using equations (1) and (2), we obtain

$$t_{\text{jet}} = 389(1+z) \left(\frac{n}{3 \text{ cm}^{-3}}\right)^{-1/3} \\ \times \left(\frac{\eta_{\gamma}}{0.2}\right)^{-1/3} E_{\text{iso},52}^{-1} \left(\frac{E_{\text{peak}}^{\text{src}}}{A}\right)^{1.89} \text{ days.}$$
(3)

Using this equation, we can calculate t_{jet} from the E_{peak}^{src} and E_{iso} values we have derived from the observations. The efficiency η_{γ} of the shock, and especially the number density *n* of the ambient medium, are poorly known for most bursts. In particular, *n* could easily lie anywhere in a fairly wide range, but the majority are within 1 < n < 30 cm⁻³ (Panaitescu & Kumar 2001, 2002).

Following the assumption made by Ghirlanda et al. (2004a) for most of their samples, we initially assume $n = 3 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ and $\eta_{\gamma} = 0.2$. Allowing A to vary from 1950 to 4380 keV in equation (3) then gives the time interval in which the jet break is expected to occur if the Ghirlanda relation is satisfied, assuming these values of *n* and η_{γ} (or equivalently, that $n\eta_{\gamma} = 0.6$). Allowing *n* to vary between 1 and 30 cm⁻³ (or equivalently, 0.2 < $n\eta_{\gamma} < 6$) in equation (3) gives the time interval in which the jet break is expected to occur if the Ghirlanda relation is satisfied without assuming a particular value of $n\eta_{\gamma}$. The intervals thus obtained are also plotted in Figures 1-3. The dash-dotted, dashed, and solid lines show the allowed time intervals, without assuming a particular value of $n\eta_{\gamma}$ and taking into account the errors in $E_{\rm iso}$ and $E_{\text{peak}}^{\text{src}}$; assuming a particular value of $n\eta_{\gamma}$ and taking into account the errors in E_{iso} and E_{peak}^{src} ; and assuming a particular value of $n\eta_{\gamma}$ without taking into account the errors in $E_{\rm iso}$ and $E_{\rm peak}^{\rm src}$. The time interval in which the jet break is expected to occur was completely observed for XRF 050416a and GRB 050525a, but no temporal break is seen within the interval. The break at about 11,000 s for GRB 050525a, which is close to the edge of the expected time interval, was suggested to be a possible jet break because of its achromatic feature between X-ray and optical bands (Blustin et al. 2006). However, if we consider the discrepancy in the spectral and temporal relations with the theoretical predictions as well, it is suggested that the break is not a jet break. For GRB 050401, time intervals on both sides of the time interval were observed and can be joined with a single power-law decay. Thus, none of the three bursts exhibit a jet break within the time period required if they are to satisfy the Ghirlanda relation.

We now consider the implications if the jet break occurs at either an earlier or a later epoch than the expected time interval. If we assume that the break at t_b corresponds to the jet break time, the temporal decay indices are inconsistent with the values predicted by the standard afterglow model, as already discussed. In addition, the values of θ_j are smaller than their values for other bursts. If we assume, on the other hand, that the jet break occurs after the time interval covered by the *Swift* XRT observations, we can derive a lower limit on θ_j , and hence on E_{γ} , from the last time at which the afterglow was detected. Figure 6 shows that in this case the three bursts are also outliers of the Ghirlanda relation. Reconciling the X-ray afterglow light curve observed for these three bursts with the standard afterglow model requires very unusual values of *n* and/or η_{γ} . In order to derive from equation (3) a jet break time that corresponds to t_b , the product of *n* and η_{γ} must be around 200, 50, and 10 for GRB 050401, XRF 050416a, and GRB 050525a, respectively. In order to derive from equation (3) a jet break time that is later than the last detections, the product of *n* and η_{γ} should be smaller than 0.2, 2×10^{-4} , and 2×10^{-3} for the three bursts, respectively (see also Levinson & Eichler 2005).

For 18 GRBs detected in the pre-Swift era, Liang & Zhang (2005) found a tight correlation among $E_{\text{peak}}^{\text{src}}$, E_{iso} , and the restframe jet break time t_{jet}^{src} (see also Xu 2005). The Liang-Zhang relation is model-independent, while the Ghirlanda relation is not, because the jet opening angle is estimated using the standard jet model of the afterglow. If the optical breaks discussed in Liang & Zhang (2005) are jet breaks, the Liang-Zhang relation is equivalent to the Ghirlanda relation (Liang & Zhang 2005; Xu 2005; Nava et al. 2006). We have shown here that if we apply a theory of achromatic jet breaks in the afterglow that was used in the pre-Swift era, the three Swift GRBs we have analyzed are outliers of the Ghirlanda relation. Therefore, these three Swift bursts are also outliers of the Liang-Zhang relation if the optical breaks discussed in Liang & Zhang (2005) are jet breaks. In fact, the restframe jet break time t_{jet}^{src} can be predicted using the equation (5) of Liang & Zhang (2005) and the values of $E_{\text{peak}}^{\text{src}}$ and E_{iso} that we have derived from the observations. The derived values of t_{jet}^{src} for the three events are 1-2 days after the bursts in the observer frame. However, no break is visible at that epoch in the light curves of X-ray afterglows.

Up to now, we have assumed that the ambient density is uniform. However, Nava et al. (2006) have investigated the case of a wind profile (i.e., $n \propto r^{-2}$) and find that E_{γ} is again tightly correlated with $E_{\text{peak}}^{\text{src}}$. Since this Ghirlanda-wind correlation is also equivalent to the Liang-Zhang relation (Nava et al. 2006), the three *Swift* GRBs discussed in this paper are also outliers of the Ghirlanda-wind relation.

3.2. Implications of No Jet Break Feature in the X-Ray Band

As discussed in the previous subsection (§ 3.1), we find that, for the three bursts we consider, the empirically derived Ghirlanda relation is incompatible with the standard jet model of GRB afterglows that worked well prior to *Swift*. This may be because prior to *Swift* jet breaks were observed mainly in the optical band, whereas in this paper, we have investigated the presence or absence of jet breaks in the X-ray band. We consider two possible ways of reconciling this discrepancy.

One possibility is that the jet break takes place in the optical band at the time expected from the Ghirlanda relation, even for the three bursts that we have studied, but that it is masked in the X-ray band by one or more sources of additional emission, such as (1) inverse Compton emission, (2) emission from a cocoon around the jet, (3) emission from the external shock as it passes through a dense region in the surrounding medium, (4) continuous injection of energy into the external shock producing a separate source of X-ray emission, or (5) a separate jet component (Panaitescu et al. 2006). If one or more additional components contribute to the X-ray afterglow emission, one might expect the observed afterglow to exhibit bumps and/or dips. However, the observed light curves of the X-ray afterglows for the three bursts all exhibit a rather simple power-law decay. This, plus the fact that the decay slopes of the X-ray afterglows of the three bursts that we consider are shallower both before the observed break and after than in the cases of many of the light curves of optical afterglows observed prior to *Swift*, favors the possibility that energy is being continuously injected into the external shock and the X-ray emission resulting from this injection of energy masks the jet break in X-ray band that is associated with the jet break in the optical band.

A second possibility is that the jet break occurs at a later time than when it occurs in previous samples of GRBs. If this is case, many *Swift* GRBs would have to belong to a different class of events from those detected by previous missions, such as the *Compton Gamma Ray Observatory* (*CGRO*) BATSE, the *Rossi X-Ray Timing Explorer* (*RXTE*), *BeppoSAX*, and *HETE-2*, and it would imply that the Ghirlanda relation has a larger scatter than previously thought. It is difficult to assess observational selection effects, given the limited number of *Swift* GRBs for which E_{iso} and E_{peak}^{src} are known as of 2005 July. However, the properties of the prompt emission of the three bursts that we consider here are indistinguishable from those of bursts detected prior to *Swift*, and their values of E_{peak}^{src} and E_{iso} satisfy the Amati relation, making the possibility that many *Swift* GRBs belong to a different class of events from those detected by previous missions seem unlikely.

It is also possible that both scenarios occur in different bursts. Simultaneous X-ray and optical observations of GRB afterglows around the expected jet break time could distinguish between these two possibilities. In the former scenarios, a jet break at the expected time should be seen in the optical band but not in the X-ray band, while in the latter scenario, a jet break should not be seen in either the optical band or the X-ray band.

Current observational evidence is limited and ambiguous. In the case of GRB 050401, Panaitescu et al. (2006) report that the optical light curve extends to ~10 days without a break. This period covers the entire time interval during which a jet break is expected, if the burst satisfies the Ghirlanda relation. Therefore, either version 5 of the former scenario, in which the X-ray and the optical afterglows are due to separate jet components, or the latter scenario are preferable for this event. A recent *Swift* burst, GRB 060206, showed a late-time steepening of the optical light curve, but no break in the X-ray light curve at the same time (Monfardini et al. 2006), which also lends support to version 5 of the former scenario, in which the X-ray and the optical afterglows are due to separate jet components.

In the case of XRF 050416a, there are no observations of the afterglow in the optical band in the expected time interval. However, the decay slope of the afterglow light curve of XRF 050416a in X-rays is shallow out to 75 days after the burst (D. Hullinger et al. 2007, in preparation). The X-ray afterglows of XRF 020427 (Amati et al. 2004) and XRF 050215b (Levan et al. 2006) are also shallow out to very late times. The properties of the prompt emission and the shallow decay slopes of the X-ray afterglows imply that, in the cases of these two bursts, the fluence in the afterglow is comparable to, or may even exceed, that in the prompt emission (see also O'Brien et al. 2006). This suggests that the efficiency of the prompt emission may be relatively small, and provides support for the possibility that energy is being continuously injected into the external shock and delays the jet break in X-rays beyond the time of the last XRT observations (Levan et al. 2006). It also is conceivable that continuous energy injection into the external shock could power X-ray emission that masks the usual jet break in X-rays.

In the case of GRB 050525a, *Swift* UVOT in six different filters (*V*, *B*, *U*, UVW1, UVM2, UVW2) from $\sim T + 70$ to $\sim T + 50,000$ s (Blustin et al. 2006). However, only upper limits are available in all the bands after $\sim T + 50,000$ s, which unfortunately lies in the middle of the time interval in which the jet break is expected to occur. After the source had faded below the detection limit of UVOT, there are detections in unfiltered light after $\sim 10^5$ s. However, those observations are not sufficient to determine if there is a break or not.¹⁶

The lack of an observed jet break in the X-ray afterglows of the three bursts we consider here also has implications for the use of GRBs for cosmological studies. It has been suggested that the tightness of the Ghirlanda relation, as reported prior to our study, makes it possible to use GRBs as "standard candles" for constraining the properties of dark energy (Ghirlanda et al. 2004b). Our results suggest additional caution in using the Ghirlanda relation for this purpose.

Given the importance of the presence or absence of a jet break for understanding the nature of GRB jets and for the use of GRBs as "standard candles" for cosmology, we strongly encourage simultaneous X-ray and optical observations of GRB afterglow around the expected jet break time for GRBs having reliable measurements of $E_{\text{peak}}^{\text{obs}}$ and redshifts in order to investigate whether the breaks seen in the optical are accompanied by breaks in the X-ray at the time expected in the standard jet model of GRB afterglows.

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¹⁶ Recently, Della Valle et al. (2006) report that the light curve of ground telescopes shows a smooth break at $\sim T + 0.03$ days.

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