



Investigation of Similarity in the Spectra between Short- and Long-Duration Gamma-ray Bursts

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Abstract: We investigated the spectral properties of the prompt emission for short- and long-duration gamma-ray bursts (GRBs) using the *Fermi* Gamma-ray Burst Monitor data. In particular, we focused on comparing the spectral properties of short GRBs and the initial 2 s of long GRBs, motivated by the previous study of Ghirlanda et al. (2009). We confirmed the similarity in the low energy photon index α between short GRBs and the initial 2 s of long GRBs. Since about a quarter of our spectra of both short GRBs and the initial 2 s of long GRBs show α to be shallower than -2/3, it is difficult to understand in the context standard synchrotron emission.

Keywords: gamma-ray burst; prompt emission; spectrum

1. Introduction

The origin of short-duration gamma-ray bursts (hereafter short GRBs) is receiving great attention in the field of astrophysics. During the second Laser Interferometer Gravitational wave Observatory and Virgo observation run in 2017, the first gravitational wave event from the merging neutron stars, GW 170817, was observed [1]. The *Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope* (*Fermi*) Gamma-ray Burst Monitor (GBM) and the Anti-Coincidence Shield (ACS) of the SPI spectrometer on board the *INTernational Gamma-ray Astrophysics Laboratory* (*INTEGRAL*) detected a possible short GRB 170817A about 1.7 s after the merger time [2]. GRB 170817A has the t_{90} duration of 2.0 \pm 0.5 s and the total radiation energy was 3–4 orders of magnitude lower than that of the typical short GRBs [3]. The origin of the weakness of GRB 170817A is still unclear. However, the recent X-ray e.g., [4,5] and radio e.g., [6] observations at the late phase suggest that the weak emission is consistent with an off-axis viewing effect (a weakened relativistic beaming effect; [7,8]) of a typical short GRB jet.

One of the well-known properties of short GRBs is the hardness of their spectra in the prompt emission. A short GRB tends to have a harder spectrum than a long duration GRB (hereafter long GRB) e.g., [9]. Ghirlanda et al. [10] show that the hardness of short GRBs is driven by a shallower (harder) low energy photon index α compared to that of long GRBs rather than the peak energy in the νF_{ν} spectrum E_{peak} by the *Compton Gamma-ray Observatory* Burst And Transient Source Experiment (BATSE) sample. Further investigation with the much larger GRB sample confirmed this spectral difference between short GRBs and long GRBs [11]. Ghirlanda et al. [11] also pointed out that a spectrum of the initial part (the first 1–2 s of the emission) of a long GRB shows a similarity to a short GRB. Both α and E_{peak} of short GRBs and the initial part of long GRBs have statistically similar distributions. This result indicates that a similar radiation process is involved between short and long GRBs.

The spectral evolution between long GRBs and short GRBs shows a similar behavior. Hakkila & Preece [12] resolved individual pulses during the prompt emission, and demonstrated the similarities of the pulse characteristics between long GRBs and short GRBs. They also suggested that the general

spectral evolution seen over the burst episode can be understood by the hard-to-soft evolution of the individual pulse. According to Ghirlanda et al. [13], E_{peak} of time-resolved spectra of both long and short GRBs shows a positive correlation to the peak fluxes (or luminosity). Those previous works shed light on the similarity in the radiation process between long and short GRBs despite the different progenitors.

In this paper, we report the comparison of the spectral properties of a prompt emission between short and long GRBs by *Fermi* GBM data. The *Fermi* GBM possesses a large GRB sample with a good spectral coverage to derive the spectral parameters of a prompt emission for both short and long GRBs. It is worth investigating the similarity in the spectral properties between short and long GRBs reported by the BATSE sample using data of a different GRB instrument. In Section 2, we describe the investigation of a possible systematic error in the *Fermi* GBM data, the analysis method and the sample selection. We report the result of the comparisons of the prompt spectral parameters among short GRBs, long GRBs and the initial 2 s of long GRBs in Section 3. We discuss and summarize our results in Section 4. The quoted errors are at the 90% confidence level.

2. Analysis

The HEASOFT version 6.21 and the *Fermi* Science tool version v10r0p5 are used throughout the analysis. The spectrum of the *Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory* [14] Burst Alert Telescope [15] data is generated following the BAT analysis thread.¹ The spectrum of *Fermi* GBM data is extracted from the Time-Tagged Event (TTE) data [16] using gtbin . The background spectrum is selected as a pre-burst interval in a duration that is 3–5-times longer than a source time interval depending on the stability of the background. The energy range of the spectral analysis is 15–150 keV for the Swift/BAT data. The energy range to be used in the spectral analysis of the *Fermi* GBM data is investigated in the following section. The energy response function of *Fermi* GRB is downloaded from the GBM triggered data archive² for each GRB. The XSPEC version 12.9.1 software package was used for fitting the spectral data.

2.1. Identifying the Spectral Energy Range of the Fermi GBM Data

First, we investigate the energy range of the spectral data of the *Fermi* GBM by performing the joint spectral fit to the simultaneously detected bright GRBs with the *Swift* BAT. The *Swift* BAT has regularly performed the spectral calibration, collecting the Crab nebula data at the specific incident angles [17–19]. Furthermore, the spectral cross-calibration has been performed with the Konus–Wind and the Suzaku/WAM using the simultaneously detected bright GRBs [20]. Therefore, the systematic errors in the energy response function of the *Swift* BAT are well understood.

The joint spectral analyses of 37 simultaneously detected GRBs by the *Fermi* GBM and the *Swift* BAT were conducted. We used the standard energy range between 7 keV and 1 MeV for the *Fermi* GBM NaI instrument and between 150 keV and 40 MeV for the BGO instrument. Figure 1 shows an example of GRB 170705A. As can be seen in the left panel of Figure 1, there is a noticeable residual from the best fit model at the spectral bins between 7 keV and 30 keV in the *Fermi* GBM NaI data. The reduced χ^2 of the fit is 1.561 in 102 degree of freedom. By ignoring the spectral bins below 30 keV in the *Fermi* GBM NaI data, the fit was significantly improved with the reduced χ^2 of 1.067 in 81 degrees of freedom (right panel of Figure 1). We systematically investigated all 37 GRBs and confirmed that the reasonable joint fit was achieved using above 30 keV for the *Fermi* GBM NaI data. Therefore, based on this study, we decided to use the energy range between 30 keV and 1 MeV for the *Fermi* GBM BGO data.

¹ https://swift.gsfc.nasa.gov/analysis/threads/batspectrumthread.html.

² https://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/FTP/fermi/data/gbm/triggers/.



Figure 1. Joint spectral analysis of the *Swift* BAT (black) and the *Fermi* GBM NaI (green and blue) and BGO (red) for GRB 170705A (left: using the *Fermi* GBM NaI data from 7 keV to 1 MeV; right: using the *Fermi* GBM NaI data from 30 keV to 1 MeV).

2.2. Preparation of the Data

We selected 60 short GRBs and 58 long GRBs detected by the *Fermi* GBM between 2008 and 2017. The selection criteria of long GRBs are that the peak photon flux in 64 ms reported in the *Fermi* GBM Burst Catalog [21–23] is >7.1 ph cm⁻² s⁻¹ and the derived spectral parameters are well constrained. We selected all short GRBs during this period with well constrained spectral parameters. The foreground spectral files are generated using gtbin specifying the t_{90} interval for the time-averaged spectra of short and long GRBs. For the spectrum of the initial 2 s of long GRBs, we specified the 2 s window from the trigger time of the *Fermi* GBM. The background spectral files are generated using gtbin , specifying a pre-burst interval which is 3–5 times longer than a foreground interval. The data of two triggered NaI detectors and one BGO detector are used in the analysis. The data and the energy response files are downloaded from the *Fermi* GBM public data archive available through the *Fermi* Science Data Center.³ The spectral model used in the fit is a cutoff power-law (CPL) model:

$$f(E) = K_{50} \left(\frac{E}{50 \text{ keV}}\right)^{\alpha} \exp\left(\frac{-E\left(2+\alpha\right)}{E_{\text{peak}}}\right)$$

where α is the low energy photon index, E_{peak} is the peak energy in the νF_{ν} spectrum and K_{50} is the normalization at 50 keV in units of photons cm⁻² s⁻¹ keV⁻¹.

3. Results

Tables 1–3 summarize our GRB samples and derived spectral parameters based on a CPL model fit. Figure 2 shows the distribution of E_{peak} and α between short GRBs and long GRBs (left panel), and the short GRBs and the initial 2 s of long GRBs (right panel). The distribution of α for long GRBs tends to overlap at a steeper region (small α) of short GRBs, whereas E_{peak} distributes to a higher energy for short GRBs compared to that of long GRBs. On the other hand, the difference in α becomes less evident between short GRBs and the initial 2 s of long GRBs.

³ https://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/FTP/fermi/data/gbm/bursts/.

GRB	α	E _{peak} [keV]
GRB081209981	-0.48 ± 0.40	848 + 479
GRB081216531	-0.77 ± 0.18	791 ± 266
GRB081223419	-1.11 ± 0.36	301 ± 127
GRB081226509	0.47 ± 1.50	269 ± 133
GRB090228204	-0.49 ± 0.18	$\frac{209 \pm 100}{813 \pm 194}$
GRB090305052	0.01 ± 0.29	611 ± 121
GRB090308734	-0.45 ± 0.22	519 + 98
GRB090617208	-0.24 ± 0.64	823 ± 623
GRB090907808	0.50 ± 0.58	339 ± 59
GRB091126333	-0.39 ± 2.24	123 ± 63
GRB100206563	0.10 ± 0.77	349 ± 110
GRB100525744	-0.78 ± 0.81	540 ± 367
GRB100625773	-0.64 ± 0.49	504 ± 251
GRB100629801	-0.94 ± 0.31	233 ± 50
GRB100811108	0.31 ± 0.37	664 ± 141
GRB101031625	0.34 ± 1.22	292 ± 146
GRB101216721	-0.49 ± 0.25	140 ± 10
GRB110526715	-0.60 ± 0.36	422 ± 146
GRB110705151	-0.06 ± 0.27	818 ± 229
GRB111103948	0.35 ± 0.99	637 ± 330
GRB111222619	-0.48 ± 0.29	1147 ± 550
GRB120323507	-1.40 ± 0.38	599 ± 578
GRB120603439	-0.62 ± 0.50	444 ± 225
GKB120811014	0.10 ± 0.39	696 ± 178
GKD12081/168	-0.40 ± 0.44 0.14 \pm 0.25	763 ± 448 727 ± 122
GRD120030297 CRB121012724	0.14 ± 0.23 -0.30 ± 0.45	737 ± 132 393 ± 120
GRB121012/24 GRB130204484	1.50 ± 0.40 1.52 ± 3.09	373 ± 120 227 ± 152
GRB130307126	-0.24 ± 0.82	461 ± 286
GRB130628860	-0.64 ± 0.48	561 ± 331
GRB130701761	-0.56 ± 0.15	1551 ± 619
GRB130912358	-0.46 ± 0.40	409 ± 129
GRB131126163	1.23 ± 0.83	474 ± 92
GRB131217108	0.20 ± 0.74	697 ± 495
GRB140105065	-0.79 ± 0.59	316 ± 212
GRB140209313	-0.89 ± 0.08	210 ± 10
GRB140511095	0.18 ± 1.98	153 ± 76
GRB140605377	0.22 ± 1.00	326 ± 114
GRB140626843	-1.24 ± 0.52	108 ± 21
GRB140807500	-1.01 ± 0.24	762 ± 447
GRD140901821 CPP141011282	-0.16 ± 0.33	1033 ± 420
GRD141011262 CPB141105406	-0.32 ± 0.37 0.70 \pm 0.32	655 ± 250 656 ± 241
GRB150118927	-0.98 ± 0.33	551 ± 323
GRB150506630	-0.44 ± 0.51	599 ± 299
GRB150604434	-0.72 ± 0.51	484 ± 295
GRB150811849	-0.09 ± 0.22	899 ± 205
GRB150819440	-1.28 ± 0.09	835 ± 292
GRB151231568	-0.95 ± 0.30	525 ± 246
GRB160406503	0.58 ± 1.22	323 ± 130
GRB160804180	-0.39 ± 0.38	555 ± 245
GRB160806584	-1.44 ± 0.27	149 ± 29
GRB160820496	-0.74 ± 0.56	412 ± 220
GRB160821937	-0.34 ± 2.04	101 ± 37
GRB160822672	-1.06 ± 0.80	252 ± 209
GRB170121133	1.82 ± 4.30	115 ± 46
GRB170127634	-0.67 ± 0.73	417 ± 290
GKB170206453	-0.67 ± 0.09	418 ± 36
GRD170305256 CRB170325321	-0.54 ± 0.35 -0.65 ± 1.21	242 ± 50 202 ± 153
GRD170020001	0.00 ± 1.21	ZUZ I 100

 Table 1. Spectral parameters of short GRBs.

CRB	N	F 1 [keV]
GRB081009140	-1.37 ± 0.14	36 ± 4
GRB081215784	-0.77 ± 0.02	566 ± 17
GRB090424592	-1.16 ± 0.04	190 ± 4
GRB090719063	-0.72 ± 0.04	277 ± 7
GRB090804940	-0.43 ± 0.10	103 ± 1
GRB091127976	-1.98 ± 0.00	9 ± 1
GRB100131730	-1.17 ± 0.08	220 ± 15
GRB100324172	-0.61 ± 0.05	483 ± 25
GRB100722096	-1.88 ± 0.11	31 ± 19
GRB100829876	-1.23 ± 0.08	225 ± 20
GRB100910818	-1.02 ± 0.09	179 ± 10
GRB101208498	-1.44 ± 0.15	115 ± 10
GRB110817191	-0.97 ± 0.07	222 ± 11
GRB110921912	-1.02 ± 0.05	643 ± 76
GRB111220486	-1.09 ± 0.06	334 ± 28
GRB120129580	-0.95 ± 0.03	347 ± 9
GRB120204054	-1.16 ± 0.04	198 ± 6
GRB120217904	-1.19 ± 0.09	319 ± 42
GRB120328268	-1.16 ± 0.03	345 ± 18
GRB120426090	-0.99 ± 0.05	148 ± 2
GRB120728434	-1.41 ± 0.05	96 ± 2
GRB120801920	-0.19 ± 0.50	440 ± 105
GRB130121835	-1.02 ± 0.30	235 ± 50
GRB130228212	-1.53 ± 0.10	268 ± 48
GRB130306991	-0.30 ± 0.84	170 ± 20
GRB130425327	-1.21 ± 0.13	252 ± 27
GRB130502327	-0.92 ± 0.07	645 ± 89
GRB130815660	-1.71 ± 0.15	134 ± 28
GRB130821674	-1.23 ± 0.07	493 ± 80
GRB131108862	-0.90 ± 0.06	432 ± 29
GRB131214705	-1.57 ± 0.07	107 ± 5
GRB131229277	-0.89 ± 0.08	360 ± 30
GRB140213807	-1.70 ± 0.06	106 ± 7
GRB140523129	-1.08 ± 0.03	293 ± 10
GRB140621827	-0.71 ± 0.14	571 ± 119
GRB140801792	-0.33 ± 0.09	125 ± 2
GRB141222298	-1.45 ± 0.07	1275 ± 796
GRB150330828	-1.10 ± 0.06	362 ± 30
GRB150403913	-0.99 ± 0.03	567 ± 29
GRB150426594	-0.74 ± 0.88	112 ± 24
GRB151227072	-1.06 ± 0.12	169 ± 10
GRB151227218	-1.45 ± 0.05	498 ± 93
GRB151231443	-0.91 ± 0.13	209 ± 12
GRB160113398	0.25 ± 1.91	140 ± 45
GRB160516237	-1.60 ± 0.46	77 ± 39
GRB160521385	-0.87 ± 0.05	205 ± 5
GRB160/24444	-1.28 ± 0.09	200 ± 18
GKD16080225	-0.79 ± 0.03	347 ± 10
GRB160816730	-0.78 ± 0.04	264 ± 8
GKD100910722	-0.96 ± 0.02	457 ± 14
GKD101218356	-0.69 ± 0.03	243 ± 4
GKD170207906	0.00 ± 0.18	384 ± 29
GKD1/0511249	-1.38 ± 0.10	110 ± 0
GKD1/0522657	-0.61 ± 0.05	387 ± 15
GKD1/0626401	-1.26 ± 0.11	90 ± 4
GKD1/0802038	-0.44 ± 0.65	310 ± 132
CPB171120554	-0.00 ± 0.05 1 22 \pm 0.15	422 ± 24
CRB120120207	-1.23 ± 0.13 -1.20 ± 0.04	202 ± 27 157 ± 2
GKD100120207	-1.50 ± 0.04	107 ± 0

 Table 2. Spectral parameters of long GRBs.

GRB α E_{peak} [keV]GRB081009140 -1.08 ± 0.25 41 ± 4 GRB081215784 -0.46 ± 0.04 609 ± 32 GRB090719063 -0.17 ± 0.09 339 ± 14 GRB090804940 -0.45 ± 0.15 114 ± 3 GRB091127976 -1.67 ± 0.07 225 ± 28 GRB100324172 0.34 ± 0.09 526 ± 23 GRB100324172 0.34 ± 0.09 526 ± 23 GRB100829876 -1.00 ± 0.06 247 ± 13 GRB100829876 -1.00 ± 0.06 247 ± 13 GRB100829876 -1.00 ± 0.08 80 ± 190 GRB101208498 -1.44 ± 0.15 116 ± 10 GRB110817191 -0.54 ± 0.08 275 ± 12 GRB110821912 -1.00 ± 0.09 830 ± 190 GRB120129580 -0.95 ± 0.03 347 ± 9 GRB120328268 -1.05 ± 0.23 615 ± 360 GRB120328268 -1.05 ± 0.23 615 ± 360 GRB120426090 -0.87 ± 0.07 148 ± 3 GRB120426090 -0.87 ± 0.07 148 ± 3 GRB120328212 -0.75 ± 0.34 262 ± 55 GRB130121835 -0.52 ± 0.32 335 ± 67 GRB130812674 -0.56 ± 0.50 387 ± 156 GRB13081660 -1.83 ± 0.31 162 ± 149 GRB13082674 -0.56 ± 0.50 387 ± 156 GRB130129277 -1.13 ± 0.40 338 ± 202 GRB140213807 -1.32 ± 0.0			
$ \begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	GRB	α	E _{peak} [keV]
$ \begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	GRB081009140	-1.08 ± 0.25	41 ± 4
$ \begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	GRB081215784	-0.46 ± 0.04	699 ± 32
$ \begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	GRB090424592	-1.02 ± 0.05	219 ± 6
$ \begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	GRB090719063	-0.17 ± 0.09	339 ± 14
$ \begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	GRB090804940	-0.45 ± 0.15	114 ± 3
$\begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	GRB091127976	-1.67 ± 0.07	225 ± 28
$\begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	GRB100131730 CPR100224172	-0.97 ± 0.08	246 ± 15 526 \pm 22
$ \begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	GRD100324172 CRB100722096	0.34 ± 0.09 -1.51 + 0.15	520 ± 23 65 ± 7
$\begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	GRB100829876	-1.01 ± 0.15 -1.00 ± 0.06	247 ± 13
GRB101208498 -1.44 ± 0.15 116 ± 10 GRB110817191 -0.54 ± 0.08 275 ± 12 GRB110921912 -1.00 ± 0.09 830 ± 190 GRB111220486 -0.94 ± 0.23 428 ± 149 GRB120129580 -0.95 ± 0.03 347 ± 9 GRB120129580 -0.95 ± 0.03 347 ± 9 GRB120129580 -0.95 ± 0.03 347 ± 9 GRB1201204054 0.50 ± 0.61 362 ± 73 GRB12012024090 -0.16 ± 0.09 322 ± 39 GRB120728434 -1.32 ± 0.24 204 ± 51 GRB130121835 -0.52 ± 0.32 335 ± 67 GRB130121835 -0.52 ± 0.32 335 ± 67 GRB13028212 -0.75 ± 0.34 262 ± 55 GRB130028212 -0.75 ± 0.34 262 ± 55 GRB130050227 -0.69 ± 0.66 165 ± 49 GRB130121835 -0.56 ± 0.50 387 ± 156 GRB130121674 -0.56 ± 0.50 387 ± 156 GRB131124705 -0.38 ± 0.16 405 ± 53 GRB140213807 -1.32 ± 0.08 279 ± 32 GRB140213807 -1.32 ± 0.03 144 ± 35 GRB14021827 -0.80 ± 0.22 596 ± 233 GRB14021827 -0.80 ± 0.22 596 ± 233 GRB15022092 -0.69 ± 0.75 133 ± 39 GRB15022093 -0.84 ± 0.24 614 ± 264 GRB15022094 -0.96 ± 0.75 133 ± 39 GRB15022095 -0.80 ± 0.24 358 ± 39 GRB15022772 -0.88 ± 0.07 17 ± 66 GRB16051237 -1.50 ± 0.45 89 ± 32 GRB16051237 <t< td=""><td>GRB100910818</td><td>-0.64 ± 0.87</td><td>$\frac{210}{86} \pm 15$</td></t<>	GRB100910818	-0.64 ± 0.87	$\frac{210}{86} \pm 15$
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	GRB101208498	-1.44 ± 0.15	116 ± 10
$\begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	GRB110817191	-0.54 ± 0.08	275 ± 12
$\begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	GRB110921912	-1.00 ± 0.09	830 ± 190
$\begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	GRB111220486	-0.94 ± 0.23	428 ± 149
$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	GRB120129580	-0.95 ± 0.03	347 ± 9
$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	GRB120204054	0.50 ± 0.61	362 ± 73
$\begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	GRB120217904	-1.16 ± 0.09	322 ± 39
$\begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	GRB120328268	-1.05 ± 0.23	615 ± 360
$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	GRB120426090	-0.87 ± 0.07	148 ± 3
$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	GRB120728434	-1.32 ± 0.24	204 ± 51
GRB130121835 -0.52 ± 0.32 335 ± 67 GRB130228212 -0.75 ± 0.34 262 ± 55 GRB130306991 -0.89 ± 0.90 572 ± 506 GRB130425327 -0.69 ± 0.66 165 ± 49 GRB130815660 -1.83 ± 0.31 162 ± 149 GRB130821674 -0.56 ± 0.50 387 ± 156 GRB13108862 -0.68 ± 0.09 460 ± 38 GRB131214705 -0.38 ± 0.16 405 ± 53 GRB131229277 -1.13 ± 0.40 338 ± 202 GRB140213807 -1.32 ± 0.08 279 ± 32 GRB140523129 -0.79 ± 0.06 458 ± 31 GRB140621827 -0.80 ± 0.22 596 ± 233 GRB140801792 -0.29 ± 0.16 128 ± 4 GRB15030828 0.09 ± 0.24 358 ± 39 GRB150403913 -0.84 ± 0.24 614 ± 264 GRB151227072 -0.88 ± 0.12 181 ± 10 GRB151227072 -0.88 ± 0.12 181 ± 10 GRB15122718 -1.15 ± 0.12 322 ± 55 GRB160516237 -1.50 ± 0.45 89 ± 32 GRB160516237 -1.50 ± 0.45 89 ± 32 GRB160724444 -1.13 ± 0.14 475 ± 136 GRB16080225 -0.49 ± 0.03 444 ± 11 GRB160910722 0.03 ± 0.80 204 ± 54 GRB170207906 1.49 ± 0.80 155 ± 13 GRB170207906 1.49 ± 0.80 155 ± 13 GRB170522657 -0.33 ± 0.13 394 ± 36 GRB170826819 -0.47 ± 0.17 366 ± 48 GRB170826819 -0.47 ± 0.17 366 ± 48 GRB1701120556 <td>GRB120801920</td> <td>-0.19 ± 0.50</td> <td>440 ± 105</td>	GRB120801920	-0.19 ± 0.50	440 ± 105
$ \begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	GRB130121835	-0.52 ± 0.32	335 ± 67
GRB1303030591 -0.89 ± 0.90 572 ± 306 GRB130425327 -0.83 ± 0.75 197 ± 66 GRB13081560 -1.83 ± 0.31 162 ± 149 GRB13081560 -1.83 ± 0.31 162 ± 149 GRB130821674 -0.56 ± 0.50 387 ± 156 GRB13110862 -0.68 ± 0.09 460 ± 38 GRB131214705 -0.38 ± 0.16 405 ± 53 GRB131229277 -1.13 ± 0.40 338 ± 202 GRB140213807 -1.32 ± 0.08 279 ± 32 GRB140523129 -0.79 ± 0.06 458 ± 31 GRB140621827 -0.80 ± 0.22 596 ± 233 GRB140801792 -0.29 ± 0.16 128 ± 4 GRB15030828 0.09 ± 0.24 358 ± 39 GRB150403913 -0.84 ± 0.24 614 ± 264 GRB150426594 -0.96 ± 0.75 133 ± 39 GRB151227072 -0.88 ± 0.12 181 ± 10 GRB151227072 -0.88 ± 0.12 181 ± 10 GRB150231843 -1.34 ± 0.20 201 ± 26 GRB160516237 -1.50 ± 0.45 89 ± 32 GRB160516237 -1.50 ± 0.45 89 ± 32 GRB160521385 -0.80 ± 0.06 217 ± 6 GRB160724444 -1.13 ± 0.14 475 ± 136 GRB16080225 -0.49 ± 0.03 444 ± 11 GRB160816730 -0.58 ± 0.07 317 ± 16 GRB170207906 1.49 ± 0.80 155 ± 13 GRB170207906 1.49 ± 0.80 155 ± 13 GRB170522657 -0.33 ± 0.13 394 ± 36 GRB170826819 -0.47 ± 0.17 366 ± 48 GRB170826819 <td>GRB130228212</td> <td>-0.75 ± 0.34</td> <td>262 ± 55</td>	GRB130228212	-0.75 ± 0.34	262 ± 55
GRB130542527 -0.33 ± 0.73 197 ± 0.60 GRB130502327 -0.69 ± 0.66 165 ± 49 GRB13081560 -1.83 ± 0.31 162 ± 149 GRB130821674 -0.56 ± 0.50 387 ± 156 GRB131108862 -0.68 ± 0.09 460 ± 38 GRB131214705 -0.38 ± 0.16 405 ± 53 GRB131229277 -1.13 ± 0.40 338 ± 202 GRB140213807 -1.32 ± 0.08 279 ± 32 GRB140523129 -0.79 ± 0.06 458 ± 31 GRB140523129 -0.79 ± 0.06 458 ± 31 GRB140801792 -0.29 ± 0.16 128 ± 4 GRB140801792 -0.29 ± 0.16 128 ± 4 GRB150330828 0.09 ± 0.24 358 ± 39 GRB150403913 -0.84 ± 0.24 614 ± 264 GRB150426594 -0.96 ± 0.75 133 ± 39 GRB151227072 -0.88 ± 0.12 181 ± 10 GRB151227072 -0.88 ± 0.12 181 ± 10 GRB15122718 -1.15 ± 0.12 322 ± 55 GRB160516237 -1.50 ± 0.45 89 ± 32 GRB160521385 -0.80 ± 0.06 217 ± 6 GRB160521385 -0.80 ± 0.07 317 ± 16 GRB160816730 -0.58 ± 0.07 317 ± 16 GRB160910722 0.03 ± 0.80 204 ± 54 GRB170207906 1.49 ± 0.80 155 ± 13 GRB170207906 1.49 ± 0.81 136 ± 5 GRB17082687 -0.78 ± 0.13 136 ± 5 GRB170826819 -0.47 ± 0.17 366 ± 48 GRB170826819 -0.47 ± 0.17 366 ± 48 GRB170120556 <td< td=""><td>GRD150506991 CPB120425227</td><td>-0.89 ± 0.90</td><td>572 ± 500 107 ± 66</td></td<>	GRD150506991 CPB120425227	-0.89 ± 0.90	572 ± 500 107 ± 66
$ \begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	GRD130423327 CRB130502327	-0.83 ± 0.73 -0.69 ± 0.66	197 ± 00 165 ± 49
$ \begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	GRB130815660	-1.83 ± 0.31	162 ± 149
$ \begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	GRB130821674	-0.56 ± 0.51	387 ± 156
$ \begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	GRB131108862	-0.68 ± 0.09	460 ± 38
$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	GRB131214705	-0.38 ± 0.16	405 ± 53
$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	GRB131229277	-1.13 ± 0.40	338 ± 202
$\begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	GRB140213807	-1.32 ± 0.08	279 ± 32
$\begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	GRB140523129	-0.79 ± 0.06	458 ± 31
$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	GRB140621827	-0.80 ± 0.22	596 ± 233
$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	GRB140801792	-0.29 ± 0.16	128 ± 4
$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	GRB141222298	-1.32 ± 0.33	144 ± 35
$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	GRB150330828	0.09 ± 0.24	358 ± 39
$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	GRB150403913	-0.84 ± 0.24	614 ± 264
$ \begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	GRD150426594	-0.96 ± 0.75	133 ± 39 181 \pm 10
$ \begin{array}{rl} \text{GRB151221216} & -1.13 \pm 0.12 & 0.12 \pm 0.5 \\ \text{GRB151231443} & -1.34 \pm 0.20 & 201 \pm 26 \\ \text{GRB160113398} & -0.58 \pm 2.69 & 96 \pm 55 \\ \text{GRB160516237} & -1.50 \pm 0.45 & 89 \pm 32 \\ \text{GRB160521385} & -0.80 \pm 0.06 & 217 \pm 6 \\ \text{GRB160724444} & -1.13 \pm 0.14 & 475 \pm 136 \\ \text{GRB16080225} & -0.49 \pm 0.03 & 444 \pm 11 \\ \text{GRB160816730} & -0.58 \pm 0.07 & 317 \pm 16 \\ \text{GRB160910722} & 0.03 \pm 0.80 & 204 \pm 54 \\ \text{GRB161218356} & -1.12 \pm 0.08 & 277 \pm 22 \\ \text{GRB170207906} & 1.49 \pm 0.80 & 155 \pm 13 \\ \text{GRB170511249} & 0.05 \pm 1.22 & 96 \pm 17 \\ \text{GRB170522657} & -0.33 \pm 0.13 & 394 \pm 36 \\ \text{GRB170802638} & -0.44 \pm 0.65 & 316 \pm 132 \\ \text{GRB170802638} & -0.47 \pm 0.17 & 366 \pm 48 \\ \text{GRB171120556} & -1.08 \pm 0.06 & 332 \pm 23 \\ \text{GRB180120207} & -0.74 \pm 0.09 & 210 \pm 10 \\ \end{array} $	GRD151227072 CRB151227218	-0.80 ± 0.12 -1.15 ± 0.12	101 ± 10 322 ± 55
$ \begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	GRD151227218 CRB151231443	-1.13 ± 0.12 -1.34 ± 0.20	322 ± 35 201 ± 26
$ \begin{array}{llllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllllll$	GRB160113398	-0.58 ± 2.69	201 ± 20 96 ± 55
$ \begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	GRB160516237	-1.50 ± 0.45	89 ± 32
$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	GRB160521385	-0.80 ± 0.06	217 ± 6
$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	GRB160724444	-1.13 ± 0.14	475 ± 136
$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	GRB16080225	-0.49 ± 0.03	444 ± 11
$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	GRB160816730	-0.58 ± 0.07	317 ± 16
$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	GRB160910722	0.03 ± 0.80	204 ± 54
$\begin{array}{rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr$	GRB161218356	-1.12 ± 0.08	277 ± 22
$\begin{array}{rrrr} {\rm GRB170511249} & 0.05 \pm 1.22 & 96 \pm 17 \\ {\rm GRB170522657} & -0.33 \pm 0.13 & 394 \pm 36 \\ {\rm GRB170626401} & -0.78 \pm 0.13 & 136 \pm 5 \\ {\rm GRB170802638} & -0.44 \pm 0.65 & 316 \pm 132 \\ {\rm GRB170826819} & -0.47 \pm 0.17 & 366 \pm 48 \\ {\rm GRB171120556} & -1.08 \pm 0.06 & 332 \pm 23 \\ {\rm GRB180120207} & -0.74 \pm 0.09 & 210 \pm 10 \\ \end{array}$	GRB170207906	1.49 ± 0.80	155 ± 13
GRB170522657 -0.33 ± 0.13 394 ± 36 GRB170626401 -0.78 ± 0.13 136 ± 5 GRB170802638 -0.44 ± 0.65 316 ± 132 GRB170826819 -0.47 ± 0.17 366 ± 48 GRB171120556 -1.08 ± 0.06 332 ± 23 GRB180120207 -0.74 ± 0.09 210 ± 10	GRB170511249	0.05 ± 1.22	96 ± 17
GRB170626401 -0.78 ± 0.13 136 ± 5 GRB170802638 -0.44 ± 0.65 316 ± 132 GRB170826819 -0.47 ± 0.17 366 ± 48 GRB171120556 -1.08 ± 0.06 332 ± 23 GRB180120207 -0.74 ± 0.09 210 ± 10	GRB170522657	-0.33 ± 0.13	394 ± 36
GKB1/0802638 -0.44 ± 0.65 316 ± 132 GRB170826819 -0.47 ± 0.17 366 ± 48 GRB171120556 -1.08 ± 0.06 332 ± 23 GRB180120207 -0.74 ± 0.09 210 ± 10	GRB170626401	-0.78 ± 0.13	136 ± 5
GRD1/1020019 -0.47 ± 0.17 366 ± 48 GRB171120556 -1.08 ± 0.06 332 ± 23 GRB180120207 -0.74 ± 0.09 210 ± 10	GRB170802638	-0.44 ± 0.65	316 ± 132
GRB180120207 -0.74 + 0.09 210 + 10	GRD1/U820819 CRB171120554	-0.47 ± 0.17 -1.08 ± 0.06	300 ± 48 332 ± 22
	GRB180120207	-0.74 ± 0.09	332 ± 23 210 ± 10

Table 3. Spectral parameters of the initial 2 s of long GRBs.



Figure 2. Distribution of E_{peak} versus α between long GRBs and short GRBs (**left**), and the initial 2 s of long GRBs and short GRBs (**right**).

Figure 3 shows a comparison of the histograms of E_{peak} between short GRBs and long GRBs (left panel), and short GRBs and the initial 2 s of long GRBs (right panel). The medians of E_{peak} are 240.5 keV, 479.7 keV and 278.6 keV for long GRBs, short GRBs and the initial 2 s of long GRBs, respectively. The Kolmogorov–Smirnov (K–S) test probabilities of E_{peak} between short GRBs and long GRBs, and short GRBs and the initial 2 s of long GRBs are 2.2×10^{-5} and 5.3×10^{-5} , respectively. Therefore, the K–S test shows that the E_{peak} distributions are drawn from a different population between short GRBs and long GRBs, as well as short GRBs and the initial 2 s of long GRBs.



Figure 3. Histograms of E_{peak} between short GRBs and long GRBs (**left**), and short GRBs and the initial 2 s of long GRBs (**right**).

Figure 4 shows a comparison of the histograms of α between short GRBs and long GRBs (left panel), and short GRBs and the initial 2 s of long GRBs (right panel). The medians of α are -1.02, -0.47 and -0.80 for long GRBs, short GRBs and the initial 2 s of long GRBs, respectively. The median of α of the initial 2 s of long GRBs becomes closer to the α distribution of short GRBs. The K–S test probabilities of α between short GRBs and long GRBs, and short GRBs and the initial 2 s of long GRBs are 1.6×10^{-8} and 2.4×10^{-3} , respectively. This statistical test shows that the α distribution of short GRBs becomes closer to that of the initial 2 s of long GRBs.

In summary, the spectra of the initial 2 s of long GRBs show a flatter (harder) α than those of the time-averaged spectra of long GRBs. The distribution of α of the initial 2 s of long GRBs is closer to that of short GRBs. However, the distribution of E_{peak} of the initial 2 s of long GRBs is lower than that of short GRBs, and consistent with the distribution of long GRBs.



Figure 4. Histograms of α between short GRBs and long GRBs (**left**), and short GRBs and the initial 2 s of long GRBs (**right**).

4. Discussion

Ghirlanda et al. [11] investigated the spectral properties of short and long GRBs using BATSE data. They found that short GRBs have a harder α and a higher E_{peak} compared to those of long GRBs. Furthermore, they also found no difference in α and E_{peak} between the initial 1–2 s of long GRB and short GRB spectra. Our independent analysis shows a systematically harder α for the initial 2 s of long GRBs and their α are closer to those of short GRBs. Although the E_{peak} distributions between short GRBs and the initial 2 s of long GRBs do not show a statistically significant similarity, the E_{peak} distribution of the initial 2 s of long GRBs shows a shift toward a high energy side (Figure 3). Our independent analysis based on the *Fermi* GBM data confirms the findings by Ghirlanda et al. [11].

The radiation process of a prompt GRB emission is described by synchrotron emission via fast cooling electrons. Therefore, there is a strong restriction on the allowed α from -3/2 to -2/3 e.g., [24]. The limitation of a harder side of α is -2/3. The previous study [25] showed that the spectra of 23% of the BATSE GRB samples violated the limit. According to our samples, about 9% of the time-averaged spectra of long GRBs violate the harder side of α by taking into account the error on α . On the other hand, 20% of short GRBs and 24% of the initial 2 s of long GRBs violate this limit. Since the similar fractions of the GRB spectra are violating the synchrotron limit for short GRBs and the initial 2 s of long GRBs, this might indicate that the similar radiation process, which is difficult to achieve by synchrotron emission, is involved in those spectra. Applying the K–S test to the E_{peak} distributions of the spectra violating the synchrotron limit for short GRBs, the initial 2 s of the long GRBs and long GRBs, we find K–S test probabilities of 7.6 × 10⁻³, 8.2 × 10⁻² and 4.4 × 10⁻¹, respectively.

The initial part of a prompt emission spectrum of long GRBs shows a peculiar characteristic in general. A spectral evolution of a prompt emission follows a hard-to-soft trend e.g., [26]. There is a well-known correlation between intensity and hardness during a burst [27]. However, according to Lu et al. [28], the flux and E_{peak} during a burst do not follow a positive correlation at the initial phase, mainly a rising part of the burst episode. Since a time-averaged spectrum of a long GRB is dominated by the emission from a peak to a tail part of a burst for a single pulse GRB, the distinct spectral characteristic which we see between long GRBs and the initial 2 s of long GRBs is related to the finding of Lu et al. [28]. A detailed study of the initial part of a GRB spectrum, especially the rising part of a GRB emission, will be important to understand the radiation processes of a prompt GRB emission.

Thanks to the gravitational wave detection accompany with a short GRB, the progenitor of a short GRB has been solved. Therefore, it becomes clear that the progenitors of long and short GRBs are different. Although long and short GRBs are originated to a different progenitor, our results suggest that the similar radiation process is involved between those two different classes of GRBs. We suggest

that a similar kind of a relativistic jet needs to be launched in both long and short GRBs to explain the similarity in the spectral properties.

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Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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