IAUC 6617: GRB 970402; 1997bp

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GRB 970402

L. Piro, M. Feroci, and E. Costa, Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale, CNR, Frascati; L. A. Antonelli, F. Fiore, and P. Giommi, BeppoSAX, Rome; A. Owens and A. Parmar, Space Science Department, ESTEC; S. Molendi, Istituto di Fisica Cosmica e Tecnologie Relative CNR, Milano; G. Cusumano, Istituto di Fisica Cosmica e Applicazioni Informatica, CNR, Palermo; J. in 't Zand, J. Heise, and R. Jager, Space Research Organization of the Netherlands, Utrecht; F. Frontera and G. Zavattini, Universita di Ferrara; L. Nicastro and E. Palazzi, Istituto Tecnologie e Studio Radiazioni Extraterrestri, CNR, Bologna; L. Salotti, OCC, Nuova Telespazio, Rome; L. Di Ciolo, G. D'Andreta, R. Ricci, G. Spoliti, A. Coletta, M. Capalbi, and M. R. Daniele, BeppoSAX, Rome; and R. C. Butler, Agenzia Spaziale Italiana, Rome, report: "The BeppoSAX GRBM/WFC error box of GRB 970402 (IAUC 6610) was observed with the BeppoSAX Narrow Field Instruments on Apr. 3.280 UT for 25 000 s (8 hr after the gamma-ray burst). A previously unknown x-ray source, SAX J1450.1-6920, has been detected by the MECS and LECS at the same position (R.A. = 14h50m06s, Decl. = -69o20'.0, equinox 2000.0; estimated error radius 50"). This position lies at the center of the reported BeppoSAX WFC error box (IAUC 6610). The source countrate was (3.0 +/- 0.7) x 10E-3 counts sE-1, corresponding to a flux of (1.5 +/- 0.5) x 10E-13 erg cmE-2 sE-1 in the MECS (2-10 keV), and (2.0 +/- 0.6) x 10E-3 counts sE-1 in the LECS (0.5-5 keV), corresponding to (2.0 +/- 0.6) x 10E-13 erg cmE-2 sE-1 in the range 0.5-5 keV. The flux conversion has been derived assuming the galactic column density and a power law with photon index 2. The source showed a decreasing trend during the observation. The field was observed again on Apr. 4.634 for 50 000 s. No source was detected in the position of SAX J1450.1-6920. The 3-sigma upper limit on the source flux implies a decrease by a factor of 3 or more. Given the similarity with the behavior of the x-ray transient associated with GRB 970228 (IAUC 6576), we conclude that BeppoSAX has detected the x-ray afterglow of GRB 970402."

SUPERNOVA 1997bp IN NGC 4680

G. V. Williams, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, provides the following measurement of SN 1997bp from the image by N. Grogin (cf. IAUC 6613): R.A. = 12h46m53s.75, Decl. = -11o38’33".2 (equinox 2000.0), which is 14".1 west and 19".8 south of the nucleus of NGC 4680.

1997 April 8 (6617) Daniel W. E. Green

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