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ERRATUM: “A MATURE DUSTY STAR-FORMING GALAXY HOSTING GRB 080607 AT $z = 3.036$”

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We have discovered an error in the photometric measurements of the host galaxy in our Spitzer IRAC images. The host is detected in the IRAC 3.5 $\mu$m and 4.5 $\mu$m channels with AB(3.5 $\mu$m) = 22.9 ± 0.2 and AB(4.5 $\mu$m) = 22.7 ± 0.2 mag. The photometric measurements of the host galaxy in other bandpasses remain unchanged. Adopting the revised Spitzer IRAC photometry and the original optical and near-IR photometric measurements, we estimate the total stellar mass ($M_*$) and on-going star formation rate (SFR) of the host galaxy based on the stellar population synthesis analysis described in Chen et al. (2010). Given the uncertainties in the global dust content of the host galaxy, we allow the metallicity, $A_V$, and dust extinction law to differ from what were found in the afterglow light (e.g., Prochaska et al. 2009; Perley et al. 2011). The likelihood analysis described in Equation (1) of Chen et al. (2010) yields an extinction-corrected SFR of $(8–12) \times 10^{-2} M_\odot \text{yr}^{-1}$, a mean ISM radiation field $I_0 \approx (2.3–3.5) \times 10^{-5}$ photons cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ Hz$^{-1}$, and $M_* = (0.5–1.4) \times 10^{10} h^{-2} M_\odot$ for the host galaxy. These are about an order of magnitude lower than those originally published. We note that the uncertainties in the derived $M_*$, $I_0$, and SFR are driven by the uncertainties in the global dust extinction law of the host galaxy. The galaxy is still fairly massive, but not as extreme as previously thought. The observed spectral energy distribution (SED) of the host galaxy is presented in the revised figure below, together with the best-fit synthetic model of super-solar metallicity and a Milky-Way type dust extinction law of $A_V = 1.25$. A Fitzpatrick & Massa (FM) law described in Perley et al. (2011) with $A_V = 1.8$ and super-solar metallicity produces a similarly good fit to the observed SED.

Adopting the priors from the best-fit dust obscuration, the FM law from Perley et al. (2011) with $R_V = 4.2$ and $A_V = 3.3$ at $z = 3$ and solar metallicity from Prochaska et al. (2009) leads to a similar estimate of $M_* (\sim 5 \times 10^9 h^{-2} M_\odot)$ but significantly higher SFR ($\sim 230 h^{-2} M_\odot \text{yr}^{-1}$). However, this model also predicts an observed optical brightness that is $\Delta AB = 1$ mag brighter than the observed 2$\sigma$ upper limits in the $r$ and $i$ bands. We therefore consider this model unlikely to represent the global extinction property of the host galaxy. The result indicates a large spatial variation in the dust content across the host galaxy.


Figure 1. Top: comparison of the observed SED of the dusty host of GRB 080607 at $z_{\text{GRB}} = 3.036$ and the best-fit stellar population synthesis models. Optical and infrared photometric measurements are shown in open circles with error bars. We place a 2σ upper limit to the observed brightness, when the galaxy is not detected. The horizontal error bars indicate the FWHM of each bandpass. The solid curve represents the best-fit synthetic model of super-solar metallicity and a Milky-Way type dust extinction law of $A_V = 1.25$. The open squares represent the predicted brightness from this best-fit model. The thin dash-dotted spectrum at the top shows the intrinsic spectrum prior to the application of dust obscuration. Bottom: the likelihood functions of the minimum age of the underlying stellar population as described by the broadband SED.

(A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

REFERENCES