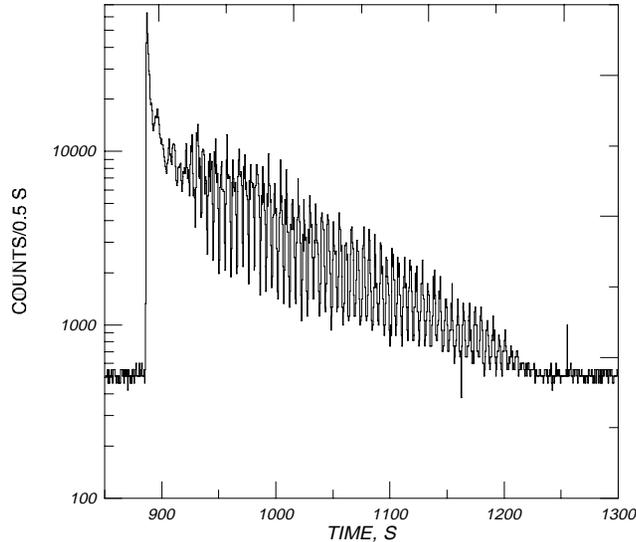
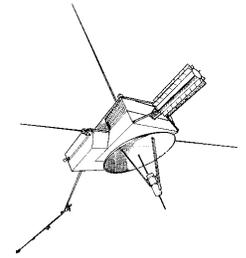


ULYSSES CAPTURES GAMMA-RAY FLARE FROM MAGNETIC STAR



Burst observed by Ulysses from the soft gamma repeater SGR1900+14. The X-ray flux rises to a very intense maximum, and as it decays away, an oscillation can be seen for about 300 seconds. The oscillation frequency is the rotation of the underlying neutron star.

A gamma-ray burst from the star SGR1900+14, located in the constellation Aquila 20,000 light-years away, was observed by Ulysses and other spacecraft with high-energy radiation detectors in space on August 27, 1998. The magnitude of the event, measured only by Ulysses, was twice that of any other recorded burst. SGR1900+14 is a newly discovered type of star called a “magnetar” (for magnetic star). SGR1900+14 must have a magnetic field about a thousand trillion times stronger than Earth's magnetic field and about one thousand times stronger than any found elsewhere in the universe. The energy for the gamma-ray burst is thought to come from a cracking of the star's surface by the intense magnetic fields.