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The Long-Term Hard X-Ray Behavior of Cygnus X-1

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The black-hole x-ray binary Cygnus X-1 has been monitored continuously by BATSE since its launch on the Compton Gamma Ray Observatory in April 1991. For approximately 50 days during January-February 1994, the source intensity decreased to the lowest level yet observed by BATSE. The intensity decrease was accompanied by a general softening of the hard x-ray spectrum. We present results of a preliminary analysis of the spectral behavior during this episode and compare these with the characteristics of Cygnus X-1 at other times and with those of other black-hole x-ray binaries.