# Exploring dense matter physics with gravitational wave detections of Neutron Stars

International Symposium on Nuclei in the Cosmos XVIII



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On behalf of the **Extreme Matter** group of the LIGO/Virgo/KAGRA collaboration. https://dcc.ligo.org/G2401607



### The detectors of the LIGO/Virgo/KAGRA collaboration

**IGO** 

#### Network of detectors:

- Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) in the USA
  - Hanford (Washington)
  - Livingston (Louisiana)
- Virgo in Italy

- ((Ô))/\
- Kamioka Gravitational Wave Detector (KAGRA) in Japan KACRA



Credits: LIGO Caltech https://www.ligo.caltech.edu/



Credits Massimo D'Andrea/EGO



### The Gravitational Wave signal

The instruments detect ripples in space-time caused by violent and high energy events in the Universe, such as the merger of two compact objects.



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Michelson interferometer technology

The form (phase and amplitude) of the gravitational wave emitted by the event depends on:

- Extrinsic binary parameters: sky localization, luminosity distance etc.
- Intrinsic parameters: object's mass, spins, deformability etc.

The nature of the compact objects merging is imprinted in the waveform that is detected.



Simulations made with PyCBC: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10473621

### Observing schedule for the LVK collaboration



https://observing.docs.ligo.org/plan/

- 3 runs done with published catalogues (GWTC–3).
  - Currently at the beginning of the O4c run.
- Detectors are characterized by their Binary Neutron Star (BNS) range.

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A lot of Black Holes and just a few Neutron Stars (NS).



GWTC-3: Compact Binary Coalescences Observed by LIGO and Virgo During the Second Part of the Third Observing Run

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#### Neutron star observations with Gravitational Waves

NS features revealed by the waveform of a NS merger:

- the masses of the compact objects impact the waveform
  - measure chirp mass ( $\mathcal{M}_c$ ) and mass ratio (q)

$$\mathcal{M}_c = \frac{(m_1 m_2)^{3/5}}{(m_1 + m_2)^{1/5}} \quad q = \frac{m_2}{m_1}$$



#### Neutron star observations with Gravitational Waves

NS features revealed by the waveform of a NS merger:

- the masses of the compact objects impact the waveform
  - measure chirp mass ( $\mathcal{M}_c$ ) and mass ratio (q)
- the **tidal deformability** of the compact objects impact the waveform
  - neutron stars can be deformed by a neighboring gravitational field: tides imprints on the waveform
  - $\circ$   $\$  measure effective tidals  $\Lambda$  and  $\delta\Lambda$  from the late inspiral





*Matter* inside NSs (in inspiral) is described by the beta-equilibrated and dense matter **Equation of State** (EoS).

• 1 EoS model = 1  $\Lambda(M)$  sequence = 1  $\tilde{\Lambda}(\mathcal{M}_c, q)$ 



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Equation of State Bayesian inference

• GW170817: **softening** of the EoS



GWTC-1 Phys. Rev. X9, 031040 (2019) and GWTC-2 Phys. Rev. X11, 021053 (2021) LALSuite software DOI 10.7935/GT1W-FZ16

Spectral representation GW170817 posteriors Phys. Rev. L121 161101 (2018)

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**Equation of State Bayesian inference** 

- GW170817: **softening** of the EoS
- Combining multi-messenger constraints
  - astronomy: Xray, radio...
  - nuclear physics experiments



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Huth et al. Nature 606, 276-280 (2022)

### Post-merger and nucleosynthesis

Electromagnetic counterparts of NS involved mergers.

- Remnant matter in the environment
- **r-processes** in the ejecta or remnant matter, source of heavy element production
- Kilonova: signature of radioactive decays of heavy nuclei.
  - We observed it for GW170817 !



#### A Neutron Star-Black Hole merger from O4: GW230529

Observation of Gravitational Waves from the Coalescence of a  $2.5{-}4.5~M_{\odot}$  Compact Object and a Neutron Star

THE LIGO SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION, THE VIRGO COLLABORATION, AND THE KAGRA COLLABORATION

Primary = large mass m1 Secondary = small mass m2 Primary is filling the "mass gap" between neutron stars and previously-observed BBH



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What did we learn from the NS?

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EOS inference using lwp from nonparametric Gaussian Process prior https://git.ligo.org/reed.essick/lwp Landry & Essick Phys. Rev. D 99, 084049

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Yet the source has implications for **electromagnetic brightness** and **heavy element production** 

- No observed EM counterpart...
- 10% tidal disruption probability of the NS
- Remnant baryon mass  $< 0.052 M_{\odot}$  (99% credibility)
- Fraction of NSBH mergers with remnant matter  $\circ \leq 0.18$  (with *X-Ray* data  $0.13^{0.19}_{-0.11}$ ).
- NSBH contribution to:
  - $\circ \quad \mbox{heavy element production:} \\ \mbox{at most} \quad 1.1 M_{\odot}/Gpc^3/yr \\ \label{eq:most}$
  - $\circ$  GRB: small  $<23/{\rm Gpc}^3/{\rm yr}$

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- LIGO India
  - Sky localization enhanced
  - Construction to be completed end 2030s



Courtesy of D. Chatterjee

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  - 40km long arms
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#### https://dcc.cosmicexplorer.org/CE-G2300014



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https://lisa.nasa.gov/

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#### The Gravitational Wave Spectrum

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# Conclusion

- Gravitational wave detections expanded the field of **multi-messenger** Astronomy.
- Currently on the **4th run** of the LIGO/Virgo/KAGRA collaboration.
- A few mergers involving NSs have taught us about neutron rich and dense matter behavior.
- Kilonova detections signal heavy element production in NS involved mergers.
- Next-generation of detectors will see further (more sources) and with higher precision (better constraints).
- Continuously working towards a better analysis of NSs.



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