LIGO The Ballet of Binary Black Holes 1.3 Billion Years Ago (Give or Take)



Black Hole #1 36X more massive than the Sun 210 km in diameter

Black Hole #2 29X more massive than the Sun 170 km in diameter

Simulation slowed down 100x

Numerical relativity (solution to $G_{\mu\nu} = 0$) simulation (SXS Collaboration, http://www.black-holes.org/) Andy Bohn, François Hébert, and William Throwe, SXS



Gravitational Wave physics and astrophysics with LIGO and Virgo

Alan J Weinstein LIGO Laboratory, Caltech

With Katerina Chatziioannou, Rana Adhikari, Lee McCuller for the LIGO and Virgo Collaborations

LIGO SURF – June 2023



LIGO-G1901145

LIGO





The "news" of this changing gravity is carried by gravitational waves

Predicted by Einstein in 1916 (and discovered 100 years later)

Gravitational waveform can be computed using numerical solutions to *Einstein's field equations*



 $=\frac{8\pi G}{4}T_{\mu\nu}$ $G_{\mu
u}$



Strong-field



•Most tests of GR focus on small deviations from Newtonian dynamics (post-Newtonian weak-field approximation)

•Space-time curvature is a *tiny* effect everywhere except:

- The universe in the early moments of the big bang
- Near/in the horizon of black holes

•This is where GR gets *non-linear* and interesting!

•We aren't very close to any black holes (fortunately!), and can't see them with light or other EM radiation... But we can search for (*weak-field*) gravitational waves as a signal of their presence and dynamics



Nature of Gravitational Radiation

General Relativity predicts that rapidly changing gravitational fields produce ripples of curvature in fabric of spacetime

Stretches and squeezes space between

"test masses" – strain $h = \Delta L / L$

propagating at speed of light

LIGO

mass of graviton = 0

- space-time distortions are transverse to direction of propagation
- GW are tensor fields (EM: vector fields) two polarizations: plus (⊕) and cross (⊗) (EM: two polarizations, *x* and *y*)

Spin of graviton = 2

 $h(t,z) = h_{\mu\nu} e^{i(\omega t - kz)} = h_{+}(t - z / c) + h_{\times}(t - z / c)$

 $h = \Delta L / L$









Gravitational Waves

 $G_{\mu\nu} = 0 \rightarrow$ Solution for an outward propagating wave in z-direction:





 $G_{\mu\nu} = 0 \rightarrow$ Solution for an outward propagating wave in z-direction:





A NEW WINDOW ON THE UNIVERSE





The history of Astronomy: new bands of the EM spectrum opened \rightarrow major discoveries! GWs aren't just a new band, they're a new spectrum, with very different and complementary properties to EM waves.

- Vibrations of space-time, not in space-time
- Emitted by coherent motion of huge masses moving at near light-speed; not vibrations of electrons in atoms
- Can't be absorbed, scattered, or shielded.

GW astronomy is a totally new, unique window on the universe







GWs at Caltech

- 1980's 90's Concept, design, construction of Initial LIGO (Caltech / MIT)
- 1998 Formation of LIGO Scientific Collaboration, LSC
- 1990's 2000's Concept, original design of LISA (Caltech / JPL)
- 1990's 2000's Concept, design, search for B-mode polarizations in CMB
- 2000 2015 Design, construction of Advanced LIGO
- 2015 GW150914 Discovery of GWs,
- 2017 Nobel Prize (Barish, Weiss, Thorne)
- 2017 GW170817 birth of multi-messenger astronomy (MMA) with GWs
- 2017 2022 GW physics and astronomy with GWs comes of age
- 2022+ Using GWs and MMA to explore the nature of neutron stars, black holes, massive stars, binary formation mechanisms, probes of cosmology and dark matter – new discoveries!

Active GW faculty / groups at Caltech (in international collaborations):

- GW astrophysics: Weinstein, Chatziioannou (new), Y. Chen, Teukolksy, Scheel
- GWs in numerical relativity: Teukolsky, Scheel, Most (new)
- GW detection, NG detectors, quantum-limited measurement: Adhikari, McCuller (new)
- GWs with LISA, PTA: Vallisneri, Cutler, +
- GWs with CMB polarization: Bock, +



The Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory

LIGO Laboratory is operated by Caltech and MIT, for the NSF.

~180 staff located at Caltech, MIT, LHO, LLO

LIGO Scientific Collaboration: ~ 1200 scientists, ~85 institutions, 15 countries

Vigo Collaboration: ~ 250 scientists, Europe



LIGO Scientific Collaboration

LIGO









The Advanced LIGO detectors



https://dcc.ligo.org/LIGO-P1500237/public/main

LIGO-Virgo-GEO Detector network















+ iPTA, LISA, ...

15

LIG) Gravitational Wave International Committee (GWIC) https://gwic.ligo.org/



GWIC RELEASES THE GWIC3G SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS ON NEXT-GENERATION GROUND-BASED OBSERVATORIES:



Introduction

Computing

Governance Community

GLOBAL COORDINATION FOR GW PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY



ABOUT GWIC

Gravitational Wave International Committee (GWIC) was formed in 1997 to facilitate international collaboration and cooperation in the construction, operation and use of the major gravitational wave detection facilities world-wide. It is associated with the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics as its Working Group WG.11. Through this association, GWIC is connected with the International Society on General Relativity and Gravitation (IUPAP's Affiliated Commission AC.2), its Commission C19 (Astrophysics), and another Working Group, the AstroParticle Physics International Committee (APPIC)

GOALS

- · Promote international cooperation in all phases of construction and scientific exploitation of gravitational-wave detectors
- · Coordinate and support long-range planning for new instrument proposals, or proposals for instrument upgrades
- · Promote the development of gravitational-wave detection as an astronomical tool, exploiting especially the potential for multi-messenger astrophysics
- Organize regular, world-inclusive meetings and workshops for the study of problems related to the development and exploitation of new or enhanced gravitational-wave detectors, and foster research and development of new technology
- · Represent the gravitational-wave detection community internationally, acting as its advocate
- Provide a forum for project leaders to regularly meet, discuss, and jointly plan the operations and direction of their detectors and experimental gravitational-wave physics generally



Timeline for LVK Observing runs, 2015 - 2030

LIGO KACRA Observi

Observing plans



Observing plans are now being maintained at https://observing.docs.ligo.org/plan/

LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA anticipate observing to dovetail with next generation facilities





LVK Fourth Observing Run (O4)

- We started the observing run on 24 May 2023
- We plan on 18 calendar months of observing for O4
- Most likely, this will be broken up into there 6-month observing periods, int())))
- The LIGO: is motivated by upgrade plans for the O5 observing run, which will like, ... KA. RAore development time
- The additional observing time will increase the scientific output of O4, while O5 upgrades
 O1/O2/O3 O3 Fit ·· O4 (160 Mpc)
- Crude extrapolation to O4, O5:









http://mediaassets.caltech.edu/gwave#videos-animations Journey of a G-wave (3 min video)

GW sources for ground-based detectors: The most energetic processes in the universe





<u>Coalescing</u> <u>Compact Binary</u> <u>Systems</u>: Neutron Star-NS, Black Hole-NS, BH-BH

- Strong emitters, well-modeled,
- (effectively) transient



<u>Asymmetric Core</u> <u>Collapse</u> <u>Supernovae</u>

Weak emitters, not well-modeled ('bursts'), transient

- Cosmic strings, soft gamma repeaters, pulsar glitches also in 'burst' class

<u>Cosmic Gravitational-</u> <u>wave Background</u>

- Residue of the Big Bang, long duration

 Long duration, stochastic background



<u>Spinning neutron</u> stars

- (effectively) monotonic waveform
- Long duration



LIGO GWs from coalescing compact binaries (NS/NS, BH/BH, NS/BH)



• Neutron star – neutron star (Centrella et al.)



Tidal disruption of neutron star

A unique and powerful laboratory to study strong-field, highly dynamical gravity and the structure of nuclear matter in the most extreme conditions



Waveform carries lots of information about binary masses, orbit, merger



https://www.black-holes.org/explore/movies



GW150914



Phys. Rev. Lett. 116, 061102 - Published 11 February 2016

https://dcc.ligo.org/LIGO-P150914/public/main



LIGO Founders of the LIGO project at Caltech and MIT





"for decisive contributions to the LIGO detector and the observation of gravitational waves"





Three BBH events, compared



Abbott, et al., LIGO Scientific Collaboration and Virgo Collaboration, "Binary Black Hole Mergers in the first Advanced LIGO Observing Run", https://arxiv.org/abs/1606.04856, Phys. Rev. X 6, 041015 (2016)





Binary merger Model parameters

Intrinsic parameters: Ê masses (m_1, m_2) , spins (\vec{S}_1, \vec{S}_2) , tidal deformability ($\tilde{\Lambda}$), eccentricity **Extrinsic parameters:** time (t_c) , reference phase (φ_c) , sky position (α , δ), distance (d_L), orbital orientation (θ_{In}, ψ), **H1** Spin magnitudes and ¹⁰ ms light orientations, eccentricity, ... tell us something about how these binaries formed







Sky localization





O2 GW events for which alerts were sent to EM observers.

O1 events along with O2 events (GW170729, GW170818) not previously released to EM observers.

- Inclusion of Virgo greatly improves sky localization: importance of a *global GW detector network* for accurate localization of GW sources (GW170814, GW170817, GW170818)
- GW170818 (LV) is best localized BBH to date: with a 90% area of 39 deg²







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Radiated energy & luminosity

GW150914: 1.0 $E_{\rm rad} = 3.0^{+0.5}_{-0.4} \,\mathrm{M}_{\odot} c^2$ $\ell_{\text{peak}} = 3.6^{+0.5}_{-0.4} \times 10^{56} \text{erg/s}$ 0.8 GW151226: a_{f} $E_{\rm rad} = 1.0^{+0.1}_{-0.2} \,\mathrm{M}_{\odot} c^2$ 0.6 $\ell_{\text{peak}} = 3.3^{+0.8}_{-1.6} \times 10^{56} \text{erg/s}$ LVT151012: 0.4 2060 80 40 $E_{\rm rad} = 1.5^{+0.3}_{-0.4} \,\mathrm{M}_{\odot} c^2$ $M_{\rm f}({\rm M}_{\odot})$ $\ell_{\text{peak}} = 3.1^{+0.8}_{-1.8} \times 10^{56} \text{erg/s}$

- GW150914: $E_{GW} \approx 3 M_{\odot}c^2$, or ~4.5% of the total mass-energy of the system.
- Roughly 10⁸⁰ gravitons.
- Peak luminosity $L_{GW} \sim 3.6 \times 10^{54}$ erg/s, briefly outshining the EM energy output of all the stars in the observable universe (by a factor ~ 50).





Average event rate: ~ one GW/month in O2 ⇒



LIG

GW Transient Catalog (GWTC) up to 93 events! (BNS, NSBH, BBH)



GWTC-3: Compact Binary Coalescences Observed by LIGO and Virgo During the Second Part of the Third Observing Run LVK - https://arxiv.org/abs/2111.03606

GW Transient Catalog up to ~ 90 events! (BNS, NSBH, BBH)



GWTC-3: Compact Binary Coalescences Observed by LIGO and Virgo During the Second Part of the Third Observing Run LVK - https://arxiv.org/abs/2111.03606





GWTC-3

Gravitational-Wave Transient Catalog

Detections from 2015-2020 of compact binaries with black holes & neutron stars





GW Transient Catalog interactive plotter http://catalog.cardiffgravity.org/



LIGO-Virgo Compact Binary Catalogue







BH Mass distribution in BBH merger rate



The population of merging compact binaries inferred using gravitational waves through GWTC-3 LVK - https://arxiv.org/abs/2111.03634 ³⁴

The merger rate evolves with redshift, roughly following star formation rate



The population of merging compact binaries inferred using gravitational waves through GWTC-3 LVK - https://arxiv.org/abs/2111.03634³⁵

BH Mass distribution in BBH merger rate (correcting for Malmquist bias)

LIGO



The population of merging compact binaries inferred using gravitational waves through GWTC-3 LVK - https://arxiv.org/abs/2111.03634

36

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Formation channels

https://dcc.ligo.org/LIGO-P1500262/public/main

[∞] Isolated binary [∞]Dynamical formation "ordinary" or rapid rotation or PopIII Fig. after Ziosi . Globular/young clusters/gal. nuclei Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen 5 Fig. after Tauris



BH Mass distribution in BBH merger rate







NS mass distribution inferred from BNS and NSBH events in GWTC, compared with galactic NSs, theory

ØG



The population of merging compact binaries inferred using gravitational waves through GWTC-3 LVK - https://arxiv.org/abs/2111.03634³⁹



0.6 b

0.4

0.2

0.0

-0.4

-0.2

0.0

-0.2

 $\chi_{
m eff}$

0.4

0.6

Component black hole spin distributions



Effective aligned spin 10GWTC-2 ---- GWTC-2 GWTC-3 — GWTC-3 $\chi_{\text{eff}} = \frac{(m_1 \boldsymbol{\chi}_1 + m_2 \boldsymbol{\chi}_2) \cdot \hat{\boldsymbol{L}}}{m_1 + m_2}$ $p(\chi_{\rm eff})$ $p(\chi_{\rm p})$ Precessing (in-plane) spin $\chi_{\rm p} = \max\left[\chi_1 \sin \theta_1, \left(\frac{3+4q}{4+3q}\right) q\chi_2 \sin \theta_2\right]$ $\frac{0}{-0.6}$ -0.20.0 0.20.4 0.6 0.2 0.4 -0.40.6 1.0 $\chi_{
m p}$ $\chi_{\rm eff}$ ---- ĠWTC-2 GWTC-2 1.2GWTC-3 GWTC-3 Spin magnitudes 1.0 $\substack{b(\cos\theta)\\b(\cos\theta)}{b(\cos\theta)}$ and tilt angles $p(\chi)$ 0.4 1.0 0.0 80 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1.00.8 0.5 -0.51.0 0.0 χ $\cos\theta$

High spin seems to correlate with asymmetric mass binaries

Forecast of astrophysical stochastic GW background due to binary mergers in GWTC



We will be detecting a SGWB before I'm dead!

The population of merging compact binaries inferred using gravitational waves through GWTC-3 LVK - https://arxiv.org/abs/2111.03634 41

Tests of General Relativity in the strong-field, highly dynamical regime

- There are many ways to extend or modify GR, but they are all more complicated, and we do not have precise waveform model / predictions from them to compare with data.
- For now, we look for *consistency* between our data and the waveforms from numerical GR.
- Tests of General Relativity with Binary Black Holes from the second LIGO–Virgo Gravitational-Wave Transient Catalog Phys. Rev. D 103, 122002 (2021)
 - » Subtract best-fit signal; are residuals consistent with Gaussian detector noise?
 - » Compare Inspiral, Merger, Ringdown are they consistent?
 - » Ringdown modes: consistent with BH no-hair theorem?
 - » Any evidence for quantum gravity; eg, firewalls producing echoes?
 - Tests of post-Newtonian expansion in inspiral; post-Einstein parameterized merger, ringdowns
 - » Tests of propagation: speed of GWs, graviton mass, anisotropy, Lorentz violation
- TGR from GWTC-3 10+ different kinds of tests GR seems ok for now…









Tests of General Relativity in the strong-field, highly dynamical regime

IMR Consistency – M_f , χ_f

GR-violating parameters



Data release -



https://www.gw-openscience.org/eventapi/html/GWTC/

GWTC-3 strain data, parameter estimation samples, skymaps, ...

Full strain data

LIGO

Tutorial, software Detector status Event alerts Lots more!

						Event	list					C New Search
тс						Lucit	2150					
GWTC (Gravitationa cumentation for indiv	il Wave Transi idual releases	ient Catalog) is a cumu s: GWTC-1, GWTC-2, G	WTC-2.1, and GW1	ational wave trans C-3.	ients maintained by	the LIGO/Virgo/KA	SRA collaboration. The	online GWTC	contains confidently-de	tected events i	from multiple data releases. For	further information
e, this catalog is only	y updated per	riodically, and may not	contain recently pu	ublished events. Fe	or the most recent o	events, you can brow	vse all available events	s.				
vious versions of this	catalog are a	archived in zenodo.										
Toggle columns on,	off with widg	jet at right.										
Click an event nam	e for more in	formation.										
Values in the table See Event Portal U	below are fro	or more details.	H and Default PE	cases found in the	e individual event's	page.						
RT: GPS Y	age notes to											
ame	Version	Release	GPS 1	Mass 1 (M _o)	Mass 2 (M _o)	Network SNR	Distance (Mpc)	Xett	Total Mass (M _o)	Redshift	False Alarm Rate (yr ⁻¹)	Final Mass (M
V200322 091133	v1	GWTC-3-confident	1268903511.3	+48	+16.8	+1.7	+7000	+0.45	+37	+0.84	140	+38
W200316 215756	v1	GWTC-3-confident	1268431094.1	+10.2	+1.9	+0.4	+470	+0.27	+7.2	+0.08	< 1.0e-05	+7.4
V200211 115852		GWTC-2-confident	1267062151.2	+6.4	+4.1	+0.2	+280	+0.16	21.2 -2.0 +5.3	+0.05	< 1.00-0E	20.2 -1.9
	•1	GWTC-5-Connidenc	1207903131.3	34.2 .3.8 +11.2	27.7 .5.9 +7.2	+0.5	1170 .400 +2700	-0.02 .0.20 +0.17	61.9 .4.2 +10.9	0.23 _{-0.07} +0.32	3 1.02-05	59.0 .3.9 +11.1
v200308_173609	v1	GWIC-3-confident	126//2418/./	36.4 -9.6	13.8 .3.3	7.1 -0.5	5400 -2600 +1700	0.65 .0.21	50.6 .8.5	0.83 -0.35	2.4	47.4 .7.7
W200306_093714	v1	GWTC-3-confident	1267522652.1	28.3 .7.7	14.8 -6.4	7.8 -0.6	2100 -1100	0.32 .0.46	43.9 -7.5	0.38 -0.18	24	41.7 .6.9
W200302_015811	v1	GWTC-3-confident	1267149509.5	37.8 -8.5	+8.1 20.0 -5.7	10.8 .0.4	+1020 1480 -700	0.01 .0.26	^{+9.6} 57.8 _{-6.9}	0.28 -0.12	0.11	55.5 _{-6.6}
N200225_060421	v1	GWTC-3-confident	1266645879.3	+5.0 19.3 -3.0	+2.8 14.0 -3.5	+0.3 12.5 -0.4	+510 1150 -530	+0.17	+3.6 33.5 _{-3.0}	+0.09	≤ 1.1e-05	*3.5 32.1 .2.8
W200224_222234	v1	GWTC-3-confident	1266618172.4	+6.9	32.5 ^{+5.0} .7.2	20.0 +0.2	+490 1710 -640	+0.15 0.10 -0.15	+7.2 72.2 -5.1	+0.08 0.32 -0.11	≤ 1.0e-05	+6.6 68.6 .4.7
W200220_124850	v1	GWTC-3-confident	1266238148.1	+14.1 38.9 _{-8.6}	+9.2 27.9 _{-9.0}	+0.3 8.5 -0.5	+2800	+0.27	67 -12	+0.36	30	64 -11
W200220_061928	v1	GWTC-3-confident	1266214786.7	+40 87 -32	+26 61 -35	+0.4 7.2 .0.2	+4800	+0.40	+55	+0.55	6.8	+51
W200219 094415	v1	GWTC-3-confident	1266140673.1	+10.1	+7.4	+0.3	+1700	+0.23	+12.6	+0.22	0.00099	+11.7
	v1	GWTC-3-confident	1265026102.8	+22	+14	+0.4	+3000	+0.34	+20	+0.37	0.35	+19
W200210_002254		CWTC 3 confident	1265361702.0	51 -13 +7.5	30 -16 +0.47	8.1 -0.5 +0.5	+430	+0.22	+7.1	+0.08	1.2	/8 -13 +7.2
w200210_092234	VI	Gwrc-3-coniident	1203301/92.9	24.1 -4.6	2.83 -0.42	8.4 -0.7 +0.4	940 -340 +1900	0.02 .0.21	27.0 -4.3	0.19 -0.06 +0.25	1.2	26.7 .4.3 +13.1
W200209_085452	v1	GWTC-3-confident	1265273710.1	35.6 -6.8	27.1 .7.8	9.6 -0.5	3400 -1800	-0.12 .0.30	62.6 .9.4	0.57 -0.26	0.046	59.9 . _{8.9}
W200208_222617	v1	GWTC-3-confident	1265235995.9	51 -30	12.3 .5.7	7.4 -1.2	4100 -1900	0.45 .0.44	63 .25	0.66 -0.28	4.8	61 -25
W200208_130117	v1	GWTC-3-confident	1265202095.9	37.8 -6.2	27.4 .7.4	10.8 -0.4	2230 .850	-0.07 .0.27	65.4 .6.8	0.40 -0.14	0.00031	62.5 -6.4
W200202_154313	v1	GWTC-3-confident	1264693411.5	+3.5 10.1 -1.4	+1.1 7.3 _{-1.7}	+0.2	+150 410 -160	+0.13 0.04 -0.06	+1.78 17.58 _{-0.67}	+0.03 0.09 -0.03	≤ 1.0e-05	+1.87 16.76 -0.66
W200129_065458	v1	GWTC-3-confident	1264316116.4	34.5 -3.2	28.9 _{-9.3} +3.4	26.8 +0.2	+290 900 -380	+0.11 0.11 -0.16	63.4 -3.6	+0.05 0.18 -0.07	≤ 1.0e-05	60.3 ^{+4.0} _{-3.3}
W200128_022011	v1	GWTC-3-confident	1264213229.9	+11.6 42.2 _{-8.1}	+9.5 32.6 -9.2	+0.3 10.6 .0.4	+2100 3400 -1800	+0.24 0.12 .0.25	* ¹⁷ 75 ₋₁₂	+0.28	0.0043	*16 71 ₋₁₁
	v2	GWTC-3-confident	1263097407.7	+2.0 5.9 .2 5	+0.85	+0.3	*150 290 .100	+0.24	+1.8 7.4 .1 7	+0.03	≤ 1.0e-05	7.2 1.7
V200115_042309				a-d			100		-4.7			
V200115_042309 V200112_155838	v1	GWTC-3-confident	1262879936.0	+6.7 35.6 4 r	+4.4	+0.1	+430	+0.15	63.9 46	+0.07	≤ 1.0e-05	+5.3
V200115_042309 V200112_155838	v1	GWTC-3-confident	1262879936.0	35.6 +6.7 -4.5 +14.0	+4.4 28.3 .5.9 +11	+0.1 19.8 -0.2 +0.3	+430 1250 -460 +2100	+0.15 0.06 .0.15	+5.7 63.9 -4.6	+0.07 0.24 -0.08 +0.26	≤ 1.0e-05	+5.3 60.8 -4.3

This was something completely different... 130 million years ago, in a galaxy far, far away ...



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7LcmWiclOs





GW170817 A Binary Neutron Star Merger! (!!!!!)

http://ligo.org/detections/GW170817.php

Our automated software ("pipeline") matched the GW signal to a predicted waveform for a binary neutron star merger



The longest (~ 60 s), loudest (SNR ~ 32), closest (40 Mpc) signal LIGO has ever observed!





Credit: Daniel Price and Stephan Rosswog



- Dead remnants of massive star core collapse supernovae
- A unique laboratory for fundamental physics
- All four forces of nature, Strong, Weak, EM, gravity – all under the most extreme beyond-laboratory conditions
- Structure can be revealed through binary mergers



Neutron stars







As the stars spiral together, they get torn apart by each other's gravity: Tidal distortion \rightarrow Disruption!





The disruption of the stars results in a huge outflow of neutron-rich "dynamical ejecta" that powers a GRB and broad-band afterglow



NSF/LIGO/Sonoma State University/A. Simonnet







Vera C. Rubin Observatory (LSST)

LIGO To add to the excitement: a gamma-ray burst (GRB)!



1.7 seconds later, duration < 2 seconds

It has long been theorized that sGRBs come from binary neutron star mergers, and a ~2 s delay fits typical models...

kinda wimpy, though...

B. Abbott et al, LIGO-Virgo, Astroph.J.Lett. 848, 2, L13 (2017)

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For the physicists: Fundamental properties of GWs and NSs



- The GW signal is fully consistent with General Relativity, over thousands of cycles.
- *GW polarization is consistent with"tensorial" (+ and ×), not (pure) vector or scalar.*
- Tidal disruption is weak: nuclear EOS is not stiff, NS radius < 14 km
- GWs, and γ-rays travelled for 130 million years (4 × 10¹⁵ s), arrived within 2 seconds of each other:
- The "speed of gravity": $V_{GW} = V_{light}$ to one part in 10¹⁵!
- No dispersion: mass of the graviton $m_g < (few) \times 10^{-23} eV/c^2$, consistent with 0.
- Improved Lorentz invariance violation limits; constrained to one part in 10¹³.
- Both the gravitons and the photons "fell" into the Milky Way Galaxy over the same time: the Equivalence Principle holds between gravitons and photons.





For the astronomers: within minutes, locate the source on the sky, tell telescopes where to point.

Source located to 28 sq deg, and ~ 40 Mpc. Time is of the essence!

(Initial alert sent out 27 minutes after the GWs passed through LIGO)





The next evening: they got it!



M. M. Kasliwal et al., Science 10.1126/science.aap9455 (2017).

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Light at Every Wavelength



Host galaxy: NGC 4993; redshift: ~ 0.01



LIGO The origin of the (heavy) elements









JI



LIGO Not just a site, but *the* site of heavy element production?

Observed Solar Abundance = Quantity per merger x Rate of Mergers >~0.05 solar-mass x >~300/Gpc³/yr





Ejecta mass estimate: ~0.05 solar mass Merger rate estimate: $R = 1540^{+3200}_{-1220} \,\mathrm{Gpc}^{-3} \mathrm{yr}^{-1}$ Consistent!





Measuring the expansion rate of the universe in an entirely new way!



- From the GWs, we can measure the distance to the source fairly accurately: 40 Mpc or 130 Mly
- From the optical afterglow of GW170817 we can measure the redshift (recessional velocity) of the source galaxy NGC4993.
- Combining them gives the Hubble expansion rate H₀.
- Not terribly accurate yet, but in good agreement with measurements made in entirely different ways (which don't agree with each other!)





Coming years: more, and more sensitive detectors



http://ligo.org/detections/GW170817.php



Coming years: more, and more sensitive detectors



https://dcc.ligo.org/LIGO-P1200087/public - Living Rev Relativ 23, 3 (2020)

Future prospects for terrestrial



B. P. Abbott et al. CQG 34 (2017) http://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1361-6382/aa51f4





Seeing to the edge of the (astrophysical) universe



Cosmic Explorer Horizon Study https://cosmicexplorer.org





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Obligatory ending cliché: The future of gravitational wave astrophysics is ... golden!



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LIG

Thanks to the NSF!

And... thank you for your attention!