Signatures of Binary Neutron Star Mergers











In Collaboration with

(b)



Rodrigo Fernandez, Eliot Quataert, Geoff Bower, Dan Kasen (UC Berkeley) Edo Berger, Wen-Fai Fong (Harvard), Tony Piro, Dan Perley (Caltech) Almudena Arcones, Gabriel Martinez-Pinedo (GSI/TU Darmstadt)

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Binary Neutron Star Mergers

Gravitational Waves

 $-\frac{1}{P}\frac{dP}{dt} = \frac{48}{5}\frac{G^3}{c^5}\frac{M^2}{a^4}$



Hulse-Taylor Pulsar



10 Known Galactic NS-NS Binaries

(Lorimer 2008)

	J0737-3039	J1518+4904	B1534+12	J1756 - 2251	J1811-1736
P [ms]	22.7/2770	40.9	37.9	28.5	104.2
$P_{\rm b}$ [d]	0.102	8.6	0.4	0.32	18.8
e	0.088	0.25	0.27	0.18	0.83
$\log_{10}(\tau_{ m c}/[{ m yr}])$	8.3/7.7	10.3	8.4	8.6	9.0
$\log_{10}(\tau_{\rm g}/[{ m yr}])$	7.9	12.4	9.4	10.2	13.0
Masses measured?	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
		-			
	B1820-11	J1829+2456	J1906+0746	B1913+16	B2127+11C
P [ms]	B1820-11 279.8	J1829+2456 41.0	J1906+0746 144.1	B1913+16 59.0	B2127+11C 30.5
P [ms] $P_{\rm b}$ [d]	B1820-11 279.8 357.8	J1829+2456 41.0 1.18	J1906+0746 144.1 0.17	B1913+16 59.0 0.3	B2127+11C 30.5 0.3
$\begin{array}{c} P \ [\mathrm{ms}] \\ P_{\mathrm{b}} \ [\mathrm{d}] \\ e \end{array}$	B1820-11 279.8 357.8 0.79	J1829+2456 41.0 1.18 0.14	J1906+0746 144.1 0.17 0.085	B1913+16 59.0 0.3 0.62	B2127+11C 30.5 0.3 0.68
P [ms] $P_{b} [d]$ e $\log_{10}(au_{c}/[yr])$	B1820-11 279.8 357.8 0.79 6.5	J1829+2456 41.0 1.18 0.14 10.1	$\begin{array}{c} J1906{+}0746\\ 144.1\\ 0.17\\ 0.085\\ 5.1 \end{array}$	B1913+16 59.0 0.3 0.62 8.0	B2127+11C 30.5 0.3 0.68 8.0
$\begin{array}{c} P \; [\mathrm{ms}] \\ P_{\mathrm{b}} \; [\mathrm{d}] \\ e \\ \log_{10}(\tau_{\mathrm{c}}/[\mathrm{yr}]) \\ \log_{10}(\tau_{\mathrm{g}}/[\mathrm{yr}]) \end{array}$	B1820-11 279.8 357.8 0.79 6.5 15.8	J1829+2456 41.0 1.18 0.14 10.1 10.8	J1906+0746 144.1 0.17 0.085 5.1 8.5	B1913+16 59.0 0.3 0.62 8.0 8.5	B2127+11C 30.5 0.3 0.68 8.0 8.3

 $\sim 10^{-5} - 10^{-4} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ Ņ merge

(e.g., Kalogera et al. 2004, Belczynski et al. 2002)

Gravitational Wave Sources

"Advanced" LIGO / Virgo Range ~ 200-500 Mpc Detection Rate ~ 1-100 yr⁻¹



LIGO (North America)



Inspiral Merger Ringdown

Sky Error Regions ~ 10-100 deg²



Gamma-Rays



BAT FOV ~ 15% XRT slews in ~min



Optical ("Now")

Palomar Transient Factory (PTF): new 7.8 deg² camera on the Palomar 48 inch Schmidt telescope

Soon: ZTF



l (ultimately 4) l.8 m mirrors w/ Gigapixel Cameras

THE DARK ENERGY SURVEY

Radio



Optical (Future)

Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST)



~All sky m_{AB}<24.5 every ~3 d - Online >~2020

Neutron Star Binary Mergers

"Advanced" LIGO/Virgo (>2016)

Range ~ 200-500 Mpc Detection Rate ~ 1-100 yr⁻¹



LIGO (North America)



NS NS NS

Sky Error Regions ~ 10-100 deg² \Rightarrow ~ 10³-10⁴ galaxies



Origin of R-Process Nuclei

Core Collapse Supernovae or NS Binary Mergers?

Galactic r-process rate:
$\dot{M}_{A>130} \sim 5 \times 10^{-7} M_{\odot} \mathrm{yr}^{-1}$
(Qian 2000)

н				Big	Bang	9											He
Li	Be			Sup	erno	vae		Sn	nall S	Stars		в	С	N	0	F	Ne
Na	Mg			Lar	ge S	tars		Co	smic	Ray	/s	AI	Si	Р	S	CI	Ar
к	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Мо	Тс	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Те	1	Xe
Cs	Ba		Hf	Та	W	Re	Os	lr	Pt	Au	Hg	ТІ	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
Fr	-r Ra																
		1	La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu
		``	Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr

1.0 CS 22892-052 data SS r-process abundances Snedan, Cowan & Gallino 2008 0.5 SS s-process abundances 0 -0.5 log € -1.0 Eu Au - 1.5 Tm Th - 2.0 U Ŧ -2.5 ^L 50 60 80 90 70 Atomic number

fraction of r-process contributed by NS Mergers:

$$f_R \sim \left(\frac{\dot{N}_{\text{merge}}}{10^{-4} \,\text{yr}^{-1}}\right) \left(\frac{\overline{M}_{\text{ej}}}{10^{-2} \,M_{\odot}}\right)$$

Numerical Simulation - Two 1.4 M_o NSs



Courtesy M. Shibata (Kyoto)

Electromagnetic Counterparts of NS-NS/NS-BH Mergers



Electromagnetic Counterparts of NS-NS/NS-BH Mergers



Numerical Simulation - Two 1.4 M_o NSs



Courtesy M. Shibata (Tokyo U)

Remnant Accretion Disk

(e.g. Ruffert & Janka 1999; Shibata & Taniguchi 2006; Faber et al. 2006; Chawla et al. 2010; Duez et al. 2010; Foucart 2012; Deaton et al. 2013)



- Disk Mass ~0.01 0.1 M_☉ & Size ~ 10-100 km
- Hot (T > MeV) & Dense ($\rho \sim 10^8 10^{12} \text{ g cm}^{-3}$)
- Neutrino Cooled: ($\tau_v \sim 0.01-100$)
- Equilibrium $e^+ + n \rightarrow \overline{v}_e + p$ VS. $e^- + p \rightarrow v_e + n \Rightarrow Y_e \sim 0.1$

Accretion Rate $\dot{M} \sim 10^{-2} - 10 M_{\odot} \text{ s}^{-1}$

$$t_{\rm visc} \sim 0.1 \left(\frac{M_{\bullet}}{3M_{\odot}}\right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{\alpha}{0.1}\right)^{-1} \left(\frac{R_d}{100 \text{ km}}\right)^{3/2} \left(\frac{H/R}{0.5}\right)^{-2} \text{ s}$$

Short GRB Engine?

Relativistic Jets and Short GRBs









Long GRBs = Death of Massive Stars Star-Forming Host Galaxies (z_{avg}~2-3)



Supernova Connection GRB 030329 ⇔ SN 2003dh





Long GRBs = Death of Massive Stars Star-Forming Host Galaxies (z_{avg}~2-3)



Supernova Connection GRB 030329 ⇔ SN 2003dh







Short GRBs are Rare in the LIGO Volume



Detectable fraction by all sky γ-ray telescope

$$f_{\gamma} \sim 3.4 \times \frac{\theta_j^2}{2} \sim 0.07 \left(\frac{\theta_j}{0.2}\right)^2$$

Electromagnetic Counterparts of NS-NS/NS-BH Mergers





Neutron-Rich Ejecta

Dynamical Tidal Tails

(e.g. Janka et al. 1999; Lee & Kluzniak 1999; Ruffert & Janka 2001; Rosswog et al. 2004; Rosswog 2005; Shibata & Taniguchi 2006; Giacomazzo et al. 2009; Duez et al. 2010; East et al. 2012; Hotokezaka et al. 2013)

Full GR / Simple EOS / Circular

$$Y_e = \frac{n_p}{n_p + n_n} < 0.1$$

Newtonian / Realistic EOS / Eccentric

Model	M _{ej}	(10⁻³ M	_⊙)
APR4-130160 1.8	BH	2.0	
APR4-140150 1.8	BH	0.6	
APR4-145145 1.8	BH	0.1	
APR4-130150 1.8	HMNS→BH	12	
APR4-140140 1.8	HMNS→BH	14	
APR4-120150 1.6	HMNS	9	
APR4-120150 1.8	HMNS	8	
APR4-120150 2.0	HMNS	7.5	I
APR4-125145 1.8	HMNS	7	Q
APR4-130140 1.8	HMNS	8	ਰ
APR4-135135 1.6	HMNS	11	天
APR4-135135 1.8	HMNS	7	Ð.
APR4-135135 2.0	HMNS	5	N
APR4-120140 1.8	HMNS	3	₩
APR4-125135 1.8	HMNS	5	<u>a</u>
APR4-130130 1.8	HMNS	2	Ф
ALF2-140140 1.8	HMNS→BH	2.5	Ť
ALF2-120150 1.8	HMNS	5.5	b
ALF2-125145 1.8	HMNS	3	
ALF2-130140 1.8	$HMNS \rightarrow BH$	1.5	N
ALF2-135135 1.8	$HMNS \rightarrow BH$	2.5	Ó
ALF2-130130 1.8	HMNS	2	
H4-130150 1.8	$HMNS \rightarrow BH$	3	00
H4-140140 1.8	$HMNS \rightarrow BH$	0.3	
H4-120150 1.6	HMNS	4.5	
H4-120150 1.8	HMNS	3.5	
H4-120150 2.0	HMNS	4	
H4-125145 1.8	HMNS	2	
H4-130140 1.8	HMNS	0.7	
H4-135135 1.6	HMNS→BH	0.7	
H4-135135 1.8	HMNS→BH	0.5	
H4-135135 2.0	HMNS	0.4	
H4-120140 1.8	HMINS	2.5	
H4-125135 1.8	HMNS	0.6	
14-130130 1.8 ME1 140140 1.2	HMINS	0.3	
MS1-140140 1.8	MINS	0.0	
MS1-120100 1.8 MS1 105145 1.9	MIND	3.3	
MG1 120140 1.8	MNG	1.0	
MG1 195195 1 9	MNG	1.5	
MS1-100100 1.8	MNS	1.0	
M31-190190 1.9	IVIINO -	1.0	



Neutron-Rich Ejecta

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(e.g. Janka et al. 1999; Lee & Kluzniak 1999; Ruffert & Janka 2001; Rosswog et al. 2004; Rosswog 2005; Shibata & Taniguchi 2006; Giacomazzo et al. 2009; Duez et al. 2010; East et al. 2012; Hotokezaka et al. 2013)

Full GR / Simple EOS / Circular

$$Y_e = \frac{n_p}{n_p + n_n} < 0.1$$

Newtonian / Realistic EOS / Eccentric

moue	<i>,</i>	l''ej	(10 ° 10	⊙)
APR4-130160	1.8	BH	2.0	
APR4-140150	1.8	BH	0.6	
APR4-145145	1.8	BH	0.1	
APR4-130150	1.8	HMNS→BH	12	
APR4-140140	1.8	$HMNS \rightarrow BH$	14	
APR4-120150	1.6	HMNS	9	
APR4-120150	1.8	HMNS	8	
APR4-120150	2.0	HMNS	7.5	エ
APR4-125145	1.8	HMNS	7	Q
APR4-130140	1.8	HMNS	8	5
APR4-135135	1.6	HMNS	11	ž
APR4-135135	1.8	HMNS	7	ወ
APR4-135135	2.0	HMNS	5	
APR4-120140	1.8	HMNS	3	ž
APR4-125135	1.8	HMNS	5	لە ھ
APR4-130130	1.8	HMNS	2	ო
ALF2-140140	1.8	HMNS→BH	2.5	Ä
ALF2-120150	1.8	HMNS	5.5	മ
ALF2-125145	1.8	HMNS	3	
ALF2-130140	1.8	$HMNS \rightarrow BH$	1.5	N
ALF2-135135	1.8	$HMNS \rightarrow BH$	2.5	
ALF2-130130	1.8	HMNS	2	
H4-130150	1.8	$HMNS \rightarrow BH$	3	ι υ
H4-140140	1.8	$HMNS \rightarrow BH$	0.3	
H4-120150	1.6	HMNS	4.5	
H4-120150	1.8	HMNS	3.5	
H4-120150	2.0	HMNS	4	
H4-125145	1.8	HMNS	2	
H4-130140	1.8	HMNS	0.7	
H4-135135	1.6	$HMNS \rightarrow BH$	0.7	
H4-135135	1.8	HMNS→BH	0.5	
H4-135135	2.0	HMNS	0.4	
H4-120140	1.8	HMNS	2.5	
H4-125135	1.8	HMNS	0.6	
H4-130130	1.8	HMNS	0.3	
MS1-140140	1.8	MNS	0.6	
MS1-120150	1.8	MNS	3.5	
MS1-125145	1.8	MNS	1.5	
MS1-130140	1.8	MNS	0.6	
MS1-135135	1.8	MNS	1.5	
MS1-130130	1.8	MNS	1.5	

Modal

M (10-3 M)

Disk Outflows

Neutrino-Powered (Early)

(e.g. McLaughlin & Surman 05; Surman+08; BDM+08; Dessart+09)

Recombination-Powered (Late)



(e.g. Beloborodov 08; BDM+08, 09; Lee+09; Fernandez & BDM 13)

$$M_{ei} = f_w M_d \sim 10^{-3} - 10^{-2} (f_w / 0.1) M_{\odot}$$



R-Process Network (neutron captures, photo-dissociations, α - and β -decays, fission)

Final Abundance Distribution



Radioactive Heating of Merger Ejecta

(BDM et al. 2010; Roberts et al. 2011; Goriely et al. 2011; Korobkin et al. 2012; Bauswein et al. 2013)



Dominant β-Decays at t ~ 1 day: 132,134,135 I, 128,129 Sb, 129 Te, 135 Xe Relatively insensitive to details (Y_e, expansion history, NSE or not)

How Supernovae Shine (Arnett 1982; Li & Paczynski 1998)
spherical ejecta - mass M, velocity v, thermal energy E = f Mc², & opacity k

$$R = v t \qquad \rho = \frac{M}{4\pi/_3 R^3}$$

$$\tau \sim \kappa \rho R \qquad t_{diff} \sim \tau \frac{R}{c}$$
Peak (t = t_{diff}) $\Rightarrow \qquad t_{peak} \sim 2 \operatorname{weeks} \left(\frac{v}{10^4} \operatorname{km s^{-1}}\right)^{-1/2} \left(\frac{M}{M_{\odot}}\right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{\kappa}{\kappa_{Fe}}\right)^{1/2}$

$$L_{peak} \sim \frac{E(t_{peak})}{t_{peak}} \sim 10^{43} \operatorname{ergs s^{-1}} \left(\frac{f}{10^{-5}}\right) \left(\frac{v}{10^4} \operatorname{km s^{-1}}\right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{M}{M_{\odot}}\right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{\kappa}{\kappa_{Fe}}\right)^{-1/2}$$

Type la Supernova:

v ~10⁴ km s⁻¹, M_{ej} ~ M_☉, f_{Ni→Co} ~ 10⁻⁵ ⇒ t_{peak} ~ week, L ~ 10⁴³ erg s⁻¹ **NS Merger:** v ~ 0.1 c, M_{ej} ~ 10⁻² M_☉, f ~ 3×10⁻⁶ ⇒ t_{peak}~ 1 day, L ~ 10⁴² erg s⁻¹

How Supernovae Shine (Arnett 1982; Li & Paczynski 1998)
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Type Ia Supernova:

v ~10⁴ km s⁻¹, M_{ej} ~ M_☉, f_{Ni→Co} ~ 10⁻⁵ ⇒ t_{peak} ~ week, L ~ 10⁴³ erg s⁻¹ **NS Merger:** v ~ 0.1 c, M_{ej} ~ 10⁻² M_☉, f~ 3×10⁻⁶ ⇒ t_{peak}~ 1 day, L ~ 10⁴² erg s⁻¹

Bolometric Luminosity

Color Evolution





High Opacity of the Lanthanides

(Kasen et al. 2013; Tanaka & Hotokezaka 2013)









Kasen et al. 2013

Bolometric Luminosity











EM Counterpart Search following a GW Trigger



⇒ Requires depth J ~ 22-24 and short cadence

Bolometric Luminosity











Bolometric Luminosity













Neutron-Rich Ejecta

Dynamical Tidal Tails

(e.g. Janka et al. 1999; Lee & Kluzniak 1999; Ruffert & Janka 2001; Rosswog et al. 2004; Rosswog 2005; Shibata & Taniguchi 2006; Giacomazzo et al. 2009; Duez et al. 2010; East et al. 2012; Hotokezaka et al. 2013)

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APR4-120150	2.0	HMNS	7.5	I
APR4-125145	1.8	HMNS	7	2
APR4-130140	1.8	HMNS	8	6
APR4-135135	1.6	HMNS	11	<u></u>
APR4-135135	1.8	HMNS	7	E CD
APR4-135135	2.0	HMNS	5	a
APR4-120140	1.8	HMNS	3	⋝
APR4-125135	1.8	HMNS	5	മ
APR4-130130	1.8	HMNS	2	Ð
ALF2-140140	1.8	HMNS→BH	2.5	
ALF2-120150	1.8	HMNS	5.5	<u>m</u>
ALF2-125145	1.8	HMNS	3	
ALF2-130140	1.8	$HMNS \rightarrow BH$	1.5	
ALF 2-130130	1.0	$\Pi M NS \rightarrow D\Pi$	2.0	5
H4 130150	1.0	HMNS	2	C.
H4 140140	1.0	HMNS->BH	03	
H4-120150	1.0	HMNS	4.5	
H4-120150	1.0	HMNS	3.5	
H4-120150	2.0	HMNS	4	
H4-125145	1.8	HMNS	2	
H4-130140	1.8	HMNS	0.7	
H4-135135	1.6	HMNS→BH	0.7	
H4-135135	1.8	HMNS→BH	0.5	
H4-135135	2.0	HMNS	0.4	
H4-120140	1.8	HMNS	2.5	
H4-125135	1.8	HMNS	0.6	
H4-130130	1.8	HMNS	0.3	
MS1-140140	1.8	MNS	0.6	
MS1-120150	1.8	MNS	3.5	
MS1-125145	1.8	MNS	1.5	
MS1-130140	1.8	MNS	0.6	
MS1-135135	1.8	MNS	1.5	
MS1-130130	18	MNS	15	

Disk Outflows

Neutrino-Powered (Early)

(e.g. McLaughlin & Surman 05; Surman+08; BDM+08; Dessart+09)

Recombination-Powered (Late)





$M_{ei} = f_w M_d \sim 10^{-3} \cdot 10^{-2} (f_w / 0.1) M_{\odot}$



Numerical Simulation - Two 1.4 M_o NSs



Courtesy M. Shibata (Tokyo U)



Remnant Torus Evolution

(Fernandez & Metzger 2012, 2013)

- P-W potential with $M_{BH} = 3,10 M_{\odot}$
- hydrodynamic α viscosity
- NSE recombination $2n+2p \Rightarrow {}^{4}He$
- run-time $\Delta t \sim 1000-3000 t_{orb}$
- neutrino self-irradiation: "light bulb"
 + optical depth corrections:





Delayed Disk Outflows



 $M_{ej} \sim 0.05 M_t V_{ej} \sim 0.1 c$

outflow robust

Outflow Composition



Outflow Composition



Abundance

10⁻⁶ 10⁻⁷ 10⁻⁸ 10⁻⁹ 10⁻¹⁰

10⁻¹¹ 10⁻¹²

120

140

160

180

Mass number A

200

220

240







AN R-PROCESS KILONOVA ASSOCIATED WITH THE SHORT-HARD GRB 130603B

E. BERGER¹, W. FONG¹, AND R. CHORNOCK¹

A 'kilonova' associated with the short-duration γ- ray burst GRB130603B

N. R. Tanvir, A. J. Levan, A. S. Fruchter, J. Hjorth, R. A. Hounsell, K. Wiersema & R. L. Tunnicliffe











Effect of Hypermassive Neutron Star



Distribution of Ejecta Y_e for Different Collapse Times





strength of 'blue bump' encodes HMNS lifetime

ejecta mass up to ~10 times higher than prompt BH case

300

 ∞

Stable Merger Remnant?

(e.g. BDM+08; Ozel et al. 2010; Bucciantini et al. 2012; Zhang 13; Yu et al. 2013; Giacomazzo & Perna 13; Siegel 2014)

- Requires: low total mass binary, stiff EOS*, and/or mass loss during merger *supported by recent discovery of $2M_{\odot}$ NS by Demorest et al. 2011
- Rotating at centrifugal break-up limit with spin period P ~ 1 ms
- Magnetic field amplified by rotational energy + convection \Rightarrow "Magnetar" ?



Giacomazzo & Perna 2013

Short GRBs with Extended Emission



- 1/5 Swift Short Bursts have X-ray Tails
- Rapid Variability ⇒ Ongoing Engine Activity
- Energy up to ~30 times Burst Itself!



BATSE Examples (Norris & Bonnell 2006)





Radio constraints on stable merger remnants (BDM & Bower 2013)

• Rotational energy

$$E_{\rm rot} = \frac{1}{2}I\Omega^2 \simeq 3 \times 10^{52} {\rm ergs} \left(\frac{P}{1\,{\rm ms}}\right)^{-1}$$

eventually transferred to ISM via relativistic shock \Rightarrow bright radio emission

- We observed 7 short GRBs with VLA on timescales ~1-3 years after burst
- NO DETECTIONS ⇒ stable remnant disfavored in 2 GRBs with high ISM densities
- Additional JVLA observations now would be much more constraining
- Upcoming radio surveys (e.g. ASKAP) will strongly constrain stable NS merger remnants ⇒ indirectly probes EoS





Timeline of Binary NS Mergers

1. Chirp enters LIGO Bandpass	t (minus) ~ mins
2. Last Orbit, Plunge & Dynamical Ejecta	t ~ ms
3. BH Formation	~ ms - ∞
4. Accretion of Remnant Disk, Jet Formation (GRB)	~ 0.1-1 s
5. He-Recombination + Disk Evaporation	~ 0.3-3 s
\Rightarrow outflow Y _e depends on NS collapse time	
6. R-Process in Merger Ejecta	~ few s
7. Jet from Magnetar (X-rays)	~ min (or longer)
8. Disk Wind Kilonova	
\Rightarrow prompt BH formation Y _e < 0.25 (NIR, L ~ 10 ⁴¹ erg s ⁻¹)	~ week
⇒ prompt BH formation $Y_e < 0.25$ (NIR, L ~ 10 ⁴¹ erg s ⁻¹) ⇒ delayed BH formation $Y_e > 0.25$ (Optical, L ~ 10 ⁴² erg s ⁻¹)	∼ week ∼ day
⇒ prompt BH formation $Y_e < 0.25$ (NIR, L ~ 10 ⁴¹ erg s ⁻¹) ⇒ delayed BH formation $Y_e > 0.25$ (Optical, L ~ 10 ⁴² erg s ⁻¹) ⇒ stable magnetar (Optical, L ~ 10 ⁴⁴ erg s ⁻¹)	∼ week ∼ day ∼ day
 ⇒ prompt BH formation Y_e < 0.25 (NIR, L ~ 10⁴¹ erg s⁻¹) ⇒ delayed BH formation Y_e > 0.25 (Optical, L ~ 10⁴² erg s⁻¹) ⇒ stable magnetar (Optical, L ~ 10⁴⁴ erg s⁻¹) 9. Tidal Tail Kilonova (IR) 	~ week ~ day ~ day ~ week
 ⇒ prompt BH formation Y_e < 0.25 (NIR, L ~ 10⁴¹ erg s⁻¹) ⇒ delayed BH formation Y_e > 0.25 (Optical, L ~ 10⁴² erg s⁻¹) ⇒ stable magnetar (Optical, L ~ 10⁴⁴ erg s⁻¹) 9. Tidal Tail Kilonova (IR) 10. Ejecta ISM Interaction (Radio) 	~ week ~ day ~ day ~ week ~ years

Conclusions

• The first direct detection of gravitational waves will likely be a binary NS merger, within the next ~3 years. *Identifying an EM counterpart will be essential to maximize the scientific impact of this discovery.*

• The most promising isotropic counterpart is an optical/IR transient ("kilonova") powered by the radioactive decay of r-process nuclei.

• The radioactive heating of the ejecta is now well understood, but the photon opacity of r-process ejecta remains uncertain.

• The first kilonova was detected following the gamma-ray burst 130603B last June, confirming the association of mergers with short GRBs.

 Kilonova provide a direct probe of the formation of r-process nuclei, a long standing mysteries in nuclear astrophysics.

• The sensitive dependence of opacity on the ejecta composition (lanthanide fraction) implies that kilonova colors provide a sensitive probe of physical processes at work during the merger, such as the delay until black hole formation.