# GW170817: gravitational waves from the merger of two neutron stars



Dr. Jess McIver for the LIGO-Virgo Collaboration Caltech/JPL Association for Gravitational-Wave Research Seminar Oct 24, 2017



LIGO DCC G1702114



# Gravitational waves

 $h_{ij}(t) \propto \frac{G}{c^4 r} \frac{d^2 I_{ij}}{dt^2}$ 

Ripples in the fabric of spacetime generated by the acceleration of matter



## Indirect evidence of gravitational waves

#### Hulse-Taylor Binary Pulsar PSR B1913+16



## Gravitational wave propagation

$$h(t) = A e^{i(2\pi f t - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r})}$$

Spacetime strain h(t) measured as  $\frac{\Delta L}{L}$ 



## Observing GWs with interferometry



#### How does LIGO detect gravitational waves?



#### Kai Staats

#### How sensitive is the LIGO experiment?





#### Where are the LIGO detectors?



#### Matched Filter Analysis

Slide adapted from S. Caudill



#### 01 results

$$\rho^{2}(t) = \left[ \langle s | h_{c} \rangle^{2}(t) + \langle s | h_{s} \rangle^{2}(t) \right]$$
$$\langle s | h \rangle = 4 \operatorname{Re} \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{\tilde{s}(f) \tilde{h}^{*}(f)}{S_{n}(f)} e^{2\pi i f t} df$$



## Observed black hole mergers to date



#### **Black Holes of Known Mass**



LIGO/VIRGO

## Sky localization



# Sky localization of BBHs with LIGO



LIGO/Caltech/MIT/Singer/Mellinger

#### A three interferometer network and EM observer partners



# Sky localization with three detectors



LIGO/Caltech/MIT/Singer/Mellinger

Prior to the Advanced LIGO's second observing run (O2), no BNS mergers were observed.

The first observing run (O1) placed upper limits on the rate of BNS mergers that did not yet rule out any astrophysical predictions (as high as ~ 10,000 Gpc<sup>-3</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>)

#### 130 million years ago, two neutron stars merged

NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center/CI Lab

# GW170817: Gravitational waves from a binary neutron star merger



#### A glitch in LIGO-Livingston



B.P. Abbott et al PRL. (2017)

#### GW170817 and GWs from binary black holes



LVT151012 ~~~~~~

GW170817

7 0 1 time observable (seconds)

LIGO/University of Oregon/Ben Farr

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#### From GWs: inferring the component masses



B.P. Abbott et al PRL. (2017)

#### Masses in the Stellar Graveyard



LIGO-Virgo/Frank Elavsky/Northwestern University

#### From GWs: constraining NS EoS Tidal deformability

 $\Lambda = (2/3)k_2[(c^2/G)(R/m)]^5$ 



B.P. Abbott et al PRL. (2017)

#### From GWs: sky localization



#### Sky localization with GWs and gamma rays





#### Virgo's role in localization



LIGO-Virgo/Greco, Arnaud, Vicerè

#### Prompt emission: GWs and gamma rays



#### Prompt emission: GWs and gamma rays



#### Electromagnetic follow-up





B.P. Abbott et al. Ap. J. Letters (2017)

#### What we've learned from GW170817

#### From gravitational waves:

- Astrophysical rate of BNS mergers  $R = 1540_{-1220}^{+3200}$  Gpc<sup>-3</sup> yr<sup>-1</sup>
- Stochastic background from BNS and BBH mergers should be detectable with current generation of detectors at design sensitivity!
- Limits on dynamical ejecta in the associated kilonova.
- To come: improved constraints on deviations from general relativity using much longer duration waveform.
- To come: insight on the remnant object from the post-merger GW signal.

#### Companion papers:

- GW170817: Observation of Gravitational Waves from a Binary Neutron Star Inspiral. B.P. Abbott et al. PRL 119 161101 (2017)
- 2. GW170817: Implications for the Stochastic Gravitational-Wave Background from Compact Binary Coalescences. arXiv 1710.05837
- *3. Estimating the Contribution of Dynamical Ejecta in the Kilonova Associated with GW170817.* arXiv 1710.05836

#### What we've learned from GW170817

#### From multi-messenger observations:

- Confirmation of association between short GRBs and BNS mergers.
- Independent measurement of the Hubble constant consistent with prior measurements.
- Speed of gravity is consistent with speed of light to one part in 10<sup>15</sup>.
- Improved Lorentz invariance limits; constrained to one part in 10<sup>13</sup>.
- New insights into physics of gamma-ray burst events.
- Constraints on progenitors and the evolution of the BNS pair.
- BNS mergers as producers of heavy elements confirmed.
- More to come see Kasliwal/Hallinan CaJAGWR seminar on Nov 7!

#### Companion papers:

- Multi-Messenger Observations of a Binary Neutron Star Merger. B.P. Abbott et al. Ap. J. Letters 848, 2 (2017)
- 2. Gravitational Waves and Gamma-Rays from a Binary Neutron Star Merger: GW170817 and GRB 170817A. B.P. Abbott et al. Ap. J. Letters 848, 2 (2017)
- *3. A gravitational-wave standard siren measurement of the Hubble constant.* B.P. Abbott et al. Nature (2017)
- 4. On the Progenitor of Binary Neutron Star Merger GW170817. arXiv 1710.05838
- 5. Search for High-energy Neutrinos from Binary Neutron Star Merger GW170817 with ANTARES, IceCube, and the Pierre Auger Observatory. arXiv 1710.05839

#### Independent measurement of the Hubble constant



B.P. Abbott et al. Nature (2017)

#### Future challenges: targeting transient noise

<u>gravityspy.org</u>

Zevin et al, CQG (2017)



# LIGO-Livingston transient noise during the second observing run



# Understanding the impact of transient noise on estimation of source properties





Parameter estimation produced with the lalinference pipeline: arXiv 1409.7215

Minimum 90% confidence sky area (2 seconds before the scattering noise feature): 300 sq. deg.
Maximum 90% confidence sky area: (During the first 0.5 seconds of the scattering noise): 540 sq. deg.

# The future of gravitational wave astronomy



## Roadmap to design sensitivity

#### Advanced LIGO



arXiv 1304.0670

Advanced Virgo

### Future prospects: the global GW network



# Future prospects for terrestrial gravitational wave astronomy



#### Beyond terrestrial detectors



#### Pulsar Timing Arrays



#### The International Pulsar Timing Array



#### ■LIGO LIGO Scientific Collaboration



# The future of gravitational wave astrophysics is bright!



NSF/LIGO/Sonoma State University/A. Simonnet

#### LIGO/Caltech