Contribution ID: **75** Type: **not specified**

Electromagnetic follow-up of gravitational wave transients: first results and perspectives

Thursday, 7 July 2016 12:10 (30 minutes)

The direct detection of gravitational waves from the merger of binary black holes marked the birth of gravitational wave astronomy and opened a new chapter in the multimessenger study of the cosmos. Among gravitational wave sources, mergers of compact objects containing at least one neutron star are thought to be associated with electromagnetic transient phenomena, such as short Gamma Ray Bursts. Simultaneous observations of gravitational interferometers and ground-based or space telescopes will thus provide an unique opportunity to find the electromagnetic counterparts of these gravitational wave sources. The talk will discuss the latest results on the electromagnetic follow-up campaign, and highlight the perspectives and challenges on the rapid search for counterparts of gravitational wave transients.

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Session Classification: Gravitational Waves