Electromagnetic signatures from GW events



Overview & focus of talk



- This talk: Theoretical (ab-initio) modelling of EM counterparts (see Eleonora Troja's talk for observational perspective)
 - Focus on stellar-mass objects involving matter (BNS, NSBH, single BHs)

2nd theme: production of heavy elements



EM counterparts are powered by matter outflows



EM counterparts are powered by matter outflows



The theoretical minimum — what it takes to model such events



$$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}Rg_{\mu\nu} = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4}T_{\mu\nu}$$

 $\nabla_{\mu} T^{\mu\nu} = \Psi^{\nu}$ $\nabla_{\mu}^{*} F^{\mu\nu} = 0$ $\nabla_{\mu} (n_{\rm b} u^{\mu}) = 0$ $\nabla_{\mu} (n_{\rm e} u^{\mu}) = \mathcal{R}$

$$T^{\mu\nu} = T^{\mu\nu}_{\rm mat} + T^{\mu\nu}_{\rm EM} + T^{\mu\nu}_{\rm neu}$$

Weak interactions (neutrinos): $e^+ + n \leftrightarrow p + \bar{\nu}_e$ $e^- + p \leftrightarrow n + \nu_e$ $e^+ + e^- \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_{e,\mu,\tau} + \nu_{e,\mu,\tau}$ Ψ^{ν}, \mathcal{R} $\gamma \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_{e,\mu,\tau} + \nu_{e,\mu,\tau}$



$$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}Rg_{\mu\nu} = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4}T_{\mu\nu}$$

General Relativity in 3+1 split: evolution and constraint equations see also Helvi Witek's talk

system of first-order hyperbolic PDEs + (e.g. BSSN system)

elliptical PDEs (constraints/initial data)



 Σ_{t}

 ${\mathcal M}$

Gourgoulhon 2012

 $\partial_t(\sqrt{\gamma} q) + \partial_i[\alpha \sqrt{\gamma} f^{(i)}(p, q)] = \alpha \sqrt{\gamma} s(p),$ conserved variables fluxes source terms



 ${\mathcal M}$

Gourgoulhon 2012

conserved variables

fluxes

source terms

BNS post-merger: multi-physics, multi-scales challenge

Magnetohydrodynamics

- role of turbulence in the remnant
 - angular momentum transport, dynamo, magnetic fields across various scales, ...
 - MHD subgrid models, LES, viscous hydrodynamics
- magnetic topology across scales, jet formation, short GRBs
- beyond MHD: resistive MHD

Nuclear Physics, weak interactions

- EOS and finite-temperature effects, phase transitions
- nucleosynthesis across ejecta components, param. space
- weak interactions neglected, neutrino fast flavour conversions

Neutrino radiation transport

• ray-by-ray (M0), two-moment (M1), Monte-Carlo transport

Other microphysics: bulk viscosity, non-ideal hydrodynamics, ...

Recent developments:

Radice 2017, 2022 Nedora+ 2021 Palenzuela+ 2022 Combi & Siegel 2023a,b Kiuchi+ 2024 Aguilera-Miret+ 2024 Ciolfi+ 2020 Ruiz+ 2016

Andersson+ 2022 Shibata+ 2021

Raithel+ 2022 Most+ 2020 Bauswein+ 2019

Fujibayashi+ 2020 Shibata+ 2021 Kawaguchi+ 2021 Li & Siegel 2021 Fernandez+ 2022 Just+ 2022

Foucart+ 2018, 2020 Li & Siegel 2021 Radice+ 2022

II Electromagnetic counterparts of dynamical ejecta

Fast dynamical ejecta



Fast dynamical ejecta: X-ray to radio afterglow



Fast dynamical ejecta: X-ray to radio afterglow



Fast dynamical ejecta: neutron precursor



Fast dynamical ejecta: neutron precursor



III. Non-thermal EM from long-lived remnant NSs

Remnant diversity & distribution



EM emission from systems with long-lived remnants



IV Post-merger physics: Jets & massive blue kilonovae

Kilonovae—illuminating merger ejecta

Metzger+ 2010



Siegel 2022, Nature Rev. Phys.

- Ejecta parameters: mass, velocity, composition (Y_e)
- Kilonova emission (color: 'red' vs. 'blue') very sensitive to composition/weak interactions (high opacities of lanthanides) $e^+ + n \rightleftharpoons p + \bar{v}_e, \quad e^- + p \rightleftharpoons n + v_e$





Combi & Siegel 2023b, PRL



Aguilera-Miret+ 2023

(GRMHD+LES, no weak interactions; late-time structures)

& r-process

Kiuchi+ 2024 (high-res GRMHD, structure attributed to MRI in remnant envelope/disk)



Most & Quataert 2023 (using α -dynamo)



Miðsta+ 2020, Curtis+ 2023 (starting with large-scale poloidal field post-merger)



Post-merger: B-field amplification



Combi & Siegel 2023b, PRL

Magnetic field amplification during merger & within remnant:

- Kelvin-Helmholtz instability (KHI)
- Turbulence stirred by double-core bounces
- Magnetorotational Instability (MRI; envelope + disk)
- magnetic winding



Magnetic tower with neutrinos—a 'jet' emerges

Combi & Siegel 2023b, PRL



- Neutrino absorption in polar regions helps generating magnetic tower and 'stabilizing' jet structure
- Self-consistent formation of a 'jet' from a remnant NS

 $\sigma = L_{\rm EM}/\dot{M} \sim 5 - 10$

- Maximum terminal Lorentz factor $\Gamma \lesssim -u_0(h/h_\infty + b^2/\rho) \approx 5-10$
- Jet head propagates with v ~ 0.6c through dynamical ejecta and breaks out by ~50ms
- → NS able to power short GRBs ?!
- Novel BH GRB jet formation mechanism: NS jet 'seeds' BH jet

Polar MHD outflows: UV/blue precursor

Combi & Siegel 2023b, PRL



Post-merger disk evolution & outflows



- t < 35ms mass ejection dominated by non-axisymmetric modes Nedora+ 2019, 2021
- Strong boost once MHD turbulence sets in (t > 40ms), reaching 2x10⁻² M_{sun} within 50ms post-merger
- Accretion disk rapidly spreads radially due to enhanced angular momentum transport





Neutron star

Post-merger disk evolution & outflows



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Nucleosynthesis & kilonova

Combi & Siegel 2023b, PRL



The GWI70817 kilonova



Long-term post-merger disk ejecta



heating-cooling imbalance in corona & nuclear recombination launches disk outflow

Siegel & Metzger 2018 Fernandez+ 2019 Kiuchi+ 2022

Long-term post-merger disk ejecta



V Other multi-messenger sources: Collapsars, long GRBs, super-kilonovae

Collapsars

- BH-accretion disk from collapse of rapidly rotating massive stars (M > 20 M_{sun})
 - → "failed explosion" (direct collapse to a BH)
 - → "weak explosion" (proto-NS collapses due to fallback material)
- Angular momentum of infalling stellar material leads to circularization and formation of accretion disk around the BH
- Main model to generate long GRBs and their accompanying SNe (hypernovae, broad-lined Type Ic)

MacFadyen & Woosley 1999

300 wind collapse 200 100 Y (km) 0 -100 -200 -300 -300 - 200 - 1000 100 200 300 X (km)

GRB jet





Siegel, Barnes, Metzger 2019, Nature

 $e^- + p \rightarrow n + \nu_{\rm e}$ $e^+ + n \rightarrow p + \bar{\nu}_{\rm e}$







Siegel, Barnes, Metzger 2019, Nature

- 0.05–1 M_{sun} of r-process material per event overcompensates lower rates relative to mergers
- self-regulation over wide range of accretion rates produced well-defined nucleosynthesis pattern similar to solar
- may dominate r-process production by mergers

See also:

Miller+ 2020, Just+ 2021, Li & Siegel 2021

How to observe?



r-process elements lead to near-infrared excess at late times: *'kilonova within a supernova'* Siegel, Barnes, Metzger 2019, Nature Barnes & Metzger 2022

Extraordinary GRB 221009A

Blanchard+, Siegel 2024, Nature Astronomy





If GRB γ -ray luminosity tracks accretion rate, absence of r-process expected here, due to neutrino irradiation killing neutron-richness

1.50

1.75

Rest Wavelength (µm)

2.00

exceptionally luminous GRBs may produce limited r-process

0.75

Black holes in the pair-instability mass gap



How to populate the PISN BH mass gap?

- Stellar mergers DiCarlo+ 2019, Renzo+ 2020b
- Hierarchical BBH mergers Antonini & Rasio 2016, ...
- Modifying stellar physics at low metallicity Farell+ 21.Vink+ 21
- Gas accretion onto PopIII remnant BHs
 - Safarzadeh & Haiman 20
- To some extent: nuclear reaction rates & rotation

Woosley & Heger 21, ...

More massive collapsars populate the PISN mass gap



Ejecta composition reflects accretion process



- At high accretion rates, flow neutronizes Beloborodov 2003, Siegel & Metzger 2017, Siegel+ 2019
- Various nucleosynthesis regimes, see also Siegel, Barnes, Metzger 2019, Nature
- Ejecta contains high-opacity, lanthanide-rich material, X_{La}~ 10⁻⁴–10⁻²
- parameter space scan

 $M_{ej} \sim 10-60 M_{sun}$

 $M_{ej, r-p} \sim 1-20 M_{sun}$

M_{ej, Ni56} ~ 0.05–1 M_{sun}

 $M_{BH} \sim 60 - 130 M_{sun}$

EM transients: Super-Kilonovae



- representative models span a range of light curve morphologies
- r-process + ⁵⁶Ni powered transients on timescales ~tens of days ('scaled-up NS merger')
- red colors and distinctive spectra with and broad lines ($v \sim 0.1c$)
- up to ~few per year detectable with wide field surveys (Roman Space Telescope)

Super-Kilonovae are multimessenger events



- Gravitational instabilities in the accretion disk give rise to gravitational-wave emission observable with 3rd generation GW observatories (Cosmic Explorer, Einstein Telescope)
- GW frequency decreases as disk expands: distinctive "sad-trombone" GW signal see Gottlieb+ 2024 for different GW mechanism in collapsar disks

Summary & conclusions

- NS mergers give rise to various ejecta components with a broad range of properties
- First self-consistent ab initio modelling of multiple EM counterparts from NR simulations with relativistic effects underway, key to interpret future observations
- Non-thermal + magnetar enhanced kilonovae from mergers with long-lived remnant NS are key to identify long-lived remnant
- First self-consistent generation of twin polar jets $\sigma \sim 5-10$ and $\Gamma \sim$ few-10
 - → NS central engine for short GRBs ?!
 - → Novel BH-disk GRB jet formation mechanism
- jet/polar outflows create ~hr kilonova precursor
- NS+disk winds consistent with blue kilonova of GW170817
- Late winds from black hole+disk consistent with red kilonova of GW170817
- Collapsars (BHs M~20-50 Msun) and super-kilonovae (BHs M > 50 Msun): multi-messenger sources for 3rd generation GW detectors, GRB and supernova-kilonova EM counterparts, prolific sources of r-process elements

Appendix

Remnant diversity & distribution



O3 NS masses

- High-M wing largely determined by outlier and NSBH events
- BNS mass distribution may be genuinely different from NSBH (binary stellar evolution)

Super-Kilonovae detection prospects

- Targeted follow-up of very bright long GRBs in the IR with Roman, JWST
- Blind searches with Optical/IR surveys (Rubin/Roman)

SuperKN Light Curve Models and Survey Detection Rates							
Model	$M_{\rm ej}$	$v_{ m ej}$	$M_{ m Ni}$	$M_{ m lrp}$	X_{La}	$R_{ m Rubin}^{(a)}$	$R^{(b)}_{ m Roman}$
	(M_{\odot})	(c)	(M_{\odot})	(M_{\odot})	(10^{-3})	(yr^{-1})	(yr^{-1})
a	8.6	0.1	0.019	0.83	1.4	0.01	0.02
b	31.0	0.1	0.012	8.28	17.0	0.03	0.4
С	35.6	0.1	0.087	23.2	4.0	0.1	2
d	50.0	0.1	0.53	9.59	0.53	0.1	4
е	60.0	0.1	0.0	5.6	0.17	0.2	0.01

Rubin: sensitive to ⁵⁶Ni-rich, light rprocess models

Roman: sensitive to lanthanide-rich models

- scaled-up, beaming corrected GRB rate using Salpeter IMF, out to z = 0.1
- 10 deg² Roman WFI survey with filters F062, F158 and F184 to ~27th mag
- detection = at least 3 SNR>3 points

Uncertainties: intrinsic event rates, stellar structure, accretion dynamics & wind composition/mixing, ...

Novel post-merger physics: Neutrino oscillations

Li & Siegel 2021, PRL



Conditions for fast conversions:

instability region: ubiquitous flavor conversions ~ns timescales

$$\Phi_0 = \sqrt{2}G_F \hbar^{-1} n_\nu = 1.92 \times 10^9 \mathrm{s}^{-1} \left(\frac{n_\nu}{10^{31} \mathrm{cm}^{-3}}\right)$$

- GRMHD + MI neutrino transport
- dispersion relation approach, approximate equipartition

First astrophysical simulation with fast conversions included dynamically, also relevant to core-collapse supernovae

Novel post-merger physics: Neutrino oscillations

Li & Siegel 2021, PRL



Caveat: non-linear regime of fast flavour conversions still somewhat uncertain Richers+ 2021 Other recent work: George+ 2020, Fernandez+ 2022, Just+ 2022

BH-disk nucleosynthesis regimes



$$\dot{M}_{\nu} \simeq 0.1 M_{\odot} \mathrm{s}^{-1} \left(\frac{M_{\mathrm{BH}}}{3M_{\odot}}\right)^{\frac{4}{3}} \left(\frac{\alpha_{\mathrm{eff}}}{0.02}\right)$$
$$\dot{M}_{\mathrm{ign}} \simeq 2 \times 10^{-3} M_{\odot} \mathrm{s}^{-1} \left(\frac{M_{\mathrm{BH}}}{3M_{\odot}}\right)^{\frac{4}{3}} \left(\frac{\alpha_{\mathrm{eff}}}{0.02}\right)^{\frac{5}{3}}$$

Chen & Beloborodov 2007 Siegel+ 2019 Siegel+ 2022 Post-merger accretion disk can 'sweep through' one or more regimes while viscously spreading

Nucleosynthesis regimes



Li & Siegel, PRL 2021



Nucleosynthesis regimes

