Image Credit: Aaron Geller

UNVEILING THE DIVERSITY OF NS MERGER COUNTERPARTS WITH OBSERVATIONS OF GRBS

JILLIAN RASTINEJAD

Northwestern





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NEUTRON STAR MERGERS: Short grbs + Kilonovae



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CLIER A CENTER FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY EXPLORATION AND RESEARCH IN ASTROPHYSICS



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Searches for Kilonovae

Team SAGUARO

(Searches After Gravitational waves

Using ARizona Observatories)

(A)

e.g., Smartt+17, Yang+18, Andreoni+21



Blind Searches in Large Surveys

Virgo

Gravitational Waves

Searches for

Kilonovae

e.g., Smartt+17, Yang+18, Andreoni+21

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Blind Searches in Large Surveys

Gravitational Waves

LIGO

Fermi



Short GRBs



Virgo

Comparing all SGRB KN observations to AT2017gfo

v(sGRB)

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Kilonova candidates are more luminous in bluer bands than AT2017gfo

Deep upper limits of 10 bursts fall below 1:1 ratio

Rest-frame optical KNe observations show span of ~100 in luminosity



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See also Gompertz+18, Ascenzi+19, Rossi+20

SGRB Kilonova Ejecta Masses



SGRB Kilonova Ejecta Masses



Current short GRB observations constrain blue ejecta diversity **better than red ejecta**

Constraints are model dependent and can vary on the order of ~0.1 M_{\odot} (also see Ascenzi+19)

GRB 211211A: Exciting Ingredients

An ambiguous gamma-ray light curve



Observing a red excess following the **50-s duration GRB 211211A at 350 Mpc**



Observing a red excess following the **50-s duration GRB 211211A at 350 Mpc**



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Broadband Observations + Afterglow Model

Afterglow-subtracted Optical/ NIR Observations + KN Model

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AT2017gfo @ z=0.076 18 constant 20 +22 Apparent magnitude 24 26 K-4 B+2U+3I-3 z-2 W1 + 428 i-1 M2 + 5W2+6 r+0 30 0 2 10Time (days from trigger)

Rastinejad+22b



Nearly the same K-band luminosity as AT2017gfo



Nearly the same K-band Iuminosity as AT2017gfo

K-band fades on similar timescales to AT 2017gfo

Deep limit on a SN counterpart at ~17 days

Higher-z scenarios are limited by Swift/UVOT afterglow detection



International Gemini Observatory/NOIRLab/NSF/AURA/M. Zamani; NASA/ESA

GRB 211211A: Implications

What causes the extended gamma-ray emission? Favored explanations:

NSBH Merger: late-time fall-back accretion from tidally-disrupted material; e.g. Rosswog+07, Desai+19



*Tentatively disfavored due to larger blue component

Magnetar Remnant: rotational energy imparted into relativistic wind; e.g. Metzger+08, Gompertz+14, Gompertz+22



*Tentatively favored due to ability to explain consistent EE timescales (~100s when system becomes opticallythin neutrinos)

GRB 211211A: Implications

What causes the extended gamma-ray emission? Favored explanations:

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Future coincident GWs + LGRBs may decide!*

*see Sarin, Lasky & Nathan 2022

Conclusions

- I. Rest-frame optical SGRB kilonovae span a factor of ~100 in luminosity. Deep upper limits constrain ejecta masses of 6 bursts to $M_{ej} < 0.05 M_{\odot}$.
- II. The long GRB 211211A was accompanied by a fast-fading NIR transient that strongly resembles the kilonova AT2017gfo, demonstrating the long complex gamma-ray light curves may spawn from a NS merger origin.

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