Two years of GW170817









A short GRB following GW170817



Abbott *et al.* (LIGO Scientific Collaboration and Virgo Collaboration) 2017, Phys. Rev. Lett. **119**, 161101

The aftermath of a NS merger



Troja+17

2 O CH-

Lyman+18 F606W January 29, 2018

Coulter+17 Arcavi+17, Lipunov+17, Soares-Santos+17, Tanvir+17, Valenti+17

The X-ray afterglow



Troja+17 Haggard+17 Margutti+17 Troja+18 Piro+19 Nynka+18 Pooley+18 Alexander+18 Troja+19

No Spectral Evolution

Simple power-law spectrum over 10 decades in energy

Consistent with synchrotron emission regime $v_m < v_r < v_X < v_c$





Troja, van Eerten et al., MNRAS, 2019, arXiv:1808.06617

Evidence for a successful relativistic jet



- High-resolution radio imaging: compact unresolved radio source superluminal motion
- **Temporal monitoring**: rapid afterglow decline

A structured jet seen off-axis



The afterglow in the off-axis structured jet model



Broadband afterglow modeling



 $\theta_{\rm jet}$ ~ 5 deg $\theta_{\rm view}$ ~ 25 deg n ~ 10⁻² – 10⁻⁴ cm⁻³ E ~ 10⁵⁰ erg

Typical of short GRB afterglows

EM viewing angle consistent with the binary inclination from GW data

Updated from Troja, van Eerten et al., MNRAS, 2019, arXiv:1808.06617

Analogues in the GRB sample: GRB 150101B



Constraints on the remnant: NS or BH?



X-ray emission is very sensitive to the GRB central engine: sporadic emission of energy (flares) or continuous spin-down energy injection (plateaus).

$B < 10^{12} G$

BH

Pooley+18

or stable low-B NS Piro+19

Future perspectives



Summary

- NS mergers can launch collimated relativistic outflows (jets) powering GRBs
- Viewing angles play an important role: Similar explosions might look very different
- GW170817: an extraordinary ordinary short GRB A few similar events might have been seen before
- ATHENA will probe a wider range of explosions