# **GW and EM observations of neutron stars to constrain dense matter**

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Quter Crust

Inner Crust

Outer Core

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**Prologue: The internal structure of neutron stars is still unknown and numerous theories are proposed, with important implications for (astro)physics.**



# **Prologue: Understanding dense matter requires determining the equation of state beyond nuclear density.**



*Lattimer and Prakash 2001*

# **GW observations of neutron stars to constrain dense matter**



# **GW 170817**



#### Masses in the Stellar Graveyard



LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA | Aaron Geller | Northwestern

#### **In addition to the masses, the gravitational wave signals hides information about the tidal deformability (and therefore on the neutron star radii).**



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# **EM observations of neutron stars to constrain dense matter**





### **Measuring neutron star masses and radii**

**Radio pulsars (in binary systems) provide the most precise measurements of neutron stars masses.**



Credits: A. Bilous

# **Radio timing of pulsars in binary systems permits measurements of orbital parameters.**



# **Monitoring of binary pulsars results in precise determination of Keplerian parameters.**

Measured Orbital Parameters for PSR B1913+16





# **Long term monitoring of binary pulsars results in precise determination of "post-Keplerian" parameters.**





Double-NS system PSR B1913+16 Best M<sub>NS</sub> measurement  $M_{PSR} = 1.4414 \pm 0.0002 M_{\odot}$ 

*Weisberg et al. 2005*

# **Measurements of the mass M<sub>NS</sub> exist, but** only the highest M<sub>NS</sub> brings new constraints.

*Demorest et al. 2010 Antoniadis et al. 2013 Cromartie et al. 2019*



### **X-ray emitting neutrons stars and X-ray pulsars can provide measurements of neutron stars radii.**



Credits: A. Bilous

# **Strong gravity permits seeing beyond the hemisphere of the neutron star.**



#### *Credits: S. Morsink / NASA*

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# *The Neutron star Interior Composition ExploreR*







**NICER has accumulated weeks of continuous data on several key pulsars to attain unprecedented**  signal-to-noise data.











**NS properties inference**  (Likelihood statistical sampling)

Mass,

Radius,





### **PSR J0030+0451: The preferred model consists in a small circular spot and an elongated crescent.**



## **PSR J0030+0451: In addition to the unexpected** geometry, we also constrained M<sub>NS</sub> and R<sub>NS</sub>.



 $R_{NS} = 12.7 \pm 1.2$  km  $M_{NS} = 1.34 \pm 0.16 M_{\odot}$ 

> *Riley, …, SG et al. (2019) See also Miller, …, SG et al. (2019)*

# **PSR J0740+6620: The simplest model is a good description of the data.**



*Riley, …, SG et al. (2021)*

### **The M-R constraints from PSR J0740+6620 are useful thanks to its independently measured high mass.**



*See also Miller, …, SG et al. (2021)*

# **GW and EM observations of neutron stars to constrain dense matter**



## **Combining GW and EM constraints**

**The NICER results for these two pulsars bring some additional constraints on equation of state models.**  $\frac{1}{2}$   $\frac{$ 

**PSR J0030+0451 brings little additional information on EoSs parametrization (polytropes)**

**Nucl. Phys. + GW170817**





#### **PSR J0740+6620 adds some improvement on the EoSs models, thanks to its high mass.**

**+ mass of PSR J0740**

**+ PSR J0740**



# **Different approaches use different ways to model the equation of state.**

*Dinh Thi et al. (2021)*



**Meta-modelling of the EOS** *Margueron et al. (2018)*

Taylor expansion of the energy density around  $e_{\text{sat}}$ 

# **Epilogue:**

# **What's the future of astrophysical constraints on the EOS**

#### **Future LVK runs will detect more NS-NS mergers.**



**The next generation of GW interferometers will then permit studies with large populations of NS-NS mergers.**

# **There are analyses of NICER pulsars in progress with upcoming M<sub>NS</sub> and R<sub>NS</sub> measurements.**



## **Future X-ray missions will also enable M<sub>NS</sub> and R<sub>NS</sub> measurements for a few tens of neutron stars.**

### **eXTP (~2028)**



- Modest imaging capabilities (60" PSF)
- $\sim$  4–5  $\times$  more sensitive than NICER
- $\rightarrow$  + Hard X-ray instrument



# **ATHENA ? (~2035)**

- ✦ Good imaging capabilities (5–10" PSF)
- $\star \sim 5{\text -}10$  x more sensitive than NICER
- $\div$  10 µs time resolution

#### **While more measurements will improve the constraints on the EOS, the quality of the measurement is really key.**



# **CompARE: An upcoming repository for MNS, R**<sub>NS</sub>, **Λ**<sub>NS</sub> measurements.

- **• Facilitate the interaction between observers and nuclear physicists / modellers**
- Offer a uniform/unified repository of M-R or M-∆ constraints from NS and NS-NS mergers
- **• Stay as close as possible to the astrophysical data, free of EOS pre-modelling**
- **• Offer easy conversions from the different type of inputs (MCMC samples, posteriors, …)**
- **• In the long term, encourage the observer community to provide their full posteriors**



# **Conclusion**

**Many M<sub>NS</sub>-R<sub>NS</sub> measurements are necessary to truly constrain the equation of state, and to be sensitive to possible phase transitions.**





# **Constraining the NICER background will be key for robust M-R measurements.**

#### **Sources of background:**

- Instrumental background
- Particle background
- Cosmic Xray background
- Nearby sources



*Wolff, SG et al 2021*





#### **There are still several pulsars observed by NICER to analyse.** 32000 31800 31600 **PSR J1614-2230** 31400 *Wolff, SG et al. 2021*

Known high mass:  $M = 1.908 \pm 0.016$  Msun





![](_page_35_Figure_5.jpeg)

Phase

PSR J0636+5129