

« MaNiTou Summer School on Gravitational Waves », July 3-8 2023, Nice



GW and nuclear physics: Neutron stars and the search for the dense matter equation of state

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INSPIRAL

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What do we know from nuclear physics? What are the new astro. observations and what do they constrain? New perspectives offered by the observation of neutron stars.

HANFORD, WASHINGTON LIVINGSTON, LOUISIANA

What is a neutron star?



The discovery of Pulsars

In 1967, Jocelyn Bell and Anthony Hewish discovered the first Pulsars (in radio-wave).



The signal repeated every days with 4 minutes delay.

-> extra-terrestrial origin !

Jocelyn Bell and Anthony Hewish





The No'Bell price...

In 1974, Anthony Hewish received the Nobel price for the discovery of pulsars, but not Jocelyne Bell.



ÉLISABETH BOUCHAUD Exil intérieur wurde Prix No'Bell * Flammes de science /1 *



Prix No'Bell

Q UI A DÉCOUVERT les pulsars, en quelle année, et qu'est-ce qu'un pulsar ? Réponses : Jocelyn Bell, en 1967, une étoile minuscule qui, au lieu de briller de façon continue, tourne très rapidement sur elle-même et agit comme un phare, dont la lumière nous éclaire à intervalles réguliers. L'autrice Elisabeth Bouchaud s'est penchée sur le cas de cette astrophysicienne.

Et quel cas ! Irlandaise, femme, quakeresse, elle a prouvé l'existence de ces étoiles alors qu'elle était encore doctorante à Cambridge. Une découverte majeure que s'est appropriée son directeur de thèse, ce qui lui a permis de décrocher le prix Nobel, en 1974.

La jeune Clémentine Lebocey incarne cette chercheuse. L'euphorie puis l'impuissance face à une telle démonstration de malveillance, elle nous les fait bien sentir. Elle donne la réplique à deux comédien(ne)s. Et joue la carte pédago. On n'est jamais perdu. Jocelyn Bell aurait pu être dévorée par l'amertume. Non, avec l'humour désabusé des personnes à qui on a constamment mis des bâtons dans les roues, elle relativise, ironise. Au fil des années, elle a récolté une kyrielle de prix fameux, dont le Prix de physique fondamentale, en 2018. Sa dotation de 3 millions de dollars, elle en a fait don à une association venant en aide aux étudiants diplômés en physique issus de minorités. Plutôt rare.

M. P.

• A la Reine-Blanche, à Paris, jusqu'au 5/2.

The contribution of Jocelyn Bell to the discovery of pulsars is huge. She would probably have deserved to receive also the Nobel price. What we know about neutron stars from nuclear physics (with little input from astro. observations):

Dense matter from nuclear physics: Esat and Esym



Contraints from the nuclear breathing mode



Isovector channel: symmetry energy

Empirical Bethe-Weizsäcker mass formula: $E_{tot} = E_{bulk} + E_{sym}^2 + E_{surf} + E_{Coul}^2$



Density dependence of the symmetry energy:

 $e_{\text{sym}}(n) = e(n, \delta = 1) - e(n, \delta = 0) = e_{\text{sym}, 2} + \dots$ Difference between

with $e_{\text{sym},2}(n) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 e(n,\delta)}{\partial \delta^2} \Big|_{\delta=0}$

[Ex: Somasundaram+ PRC 2021]

In terms of empirical parameters:

$$P_{sym}(n) = E_{sym} + L_{sym}x + \frac{1}{2}K_{sym}x^2 - \frac{1}{2}K_{$$

NM and SM.

Slope of the symmetry energy (density dependence):

$$L_{sym} = \frac{\partial e_{sym}(x)}{\partial x} = 3n_{sat} \frac{\partial e_{sym}(n)}{\partial n} \quad .$$

The composition of dense matter is largely determined by the symmetry energy.

Major impact on the beta equilibrium in neutron stars

$$\mu_e = \mu_n - \mu_p = 4(1 - 2x)e_{sym}(n)$$



Modeling inhomogeneous matter (crust)



Modeling homogeneous matter (core)



How new data will help to answer these questions?

Links between nuclear physics and observation of neutron stars:

Stars and the equation of state...

The sun is at equilibrium between **gravity** and internal (radiative) **pressure**.



This is the case of all celestial objects. Only **different** In **pressures** create **different** In **objects**.

Neutron stars are also at equilibrium. Assume the density in the star is constant



The **radius** R of neutron stars reflects this equilibrium:

- large radii —> large internal pressure,
- small radii —> lower internal pressure.

Measuring neutron star **radius** is a way to measure the **internal pressure**.

The **mass** and the **radius** define the **density**: $\rho \propto M/R^3$



The relation between the internal pressure and the density is called the **equation of state** (EoS).

Internal pressure originates from the **Pauli exclusion** between fermions (electrons, nucleons, quarks, ...) + **interaction (quantum mechanics)**.

A neutron star



EoS [nuclear] <=> NS (M,R) [astro]



Known and unknown from nuclear physics

Energy in asymmetric matter: $e(n, \delta) \approx e_{\text{sat}}(n) + e_{\text{sym},2}(n)\delta^2 + e_{\text{sym},4}(n)\delta^4 + \dots$

with $\delta = (n_n - n_p)/(n_n + n_p)$

where the isoscalar and isovector terms are expressed as a Taylor expansion in x:

$$e_{sat}(n) = E_{sat} + \frac{1}{2}K_{sat}x^{2} + \frac{1}{6}Q_{sat}x^{3} + \frac{1}{24}Z_{sat}x^{4} + \dots$$
 with $x = (n - n_{sat})/(3n_{sat})$
$$e_{sym}(n) = E_{sym} + L_{sym}x + \frac{1}{2}K_{sym}x^{2} + \frac{1}{6}Q_{sym}x^{3} + \frac{1}{24}Z_{sym}x^{4} + \dots$$

The **nuclear empirical parameters** (NEP) capture the (topological) properties of the EoS around n_{sat} .

	Small uncertainties					Large uncertainties					Some uncertainties	
P_{α}	Esat	E_{sym}	n _{sat}	L _{sym}	K _{sat}	K _{sym}	Q_{sat}	Q_{sym}	Z_{sat}	Z_{sym}	m_{sat}^*/m	$\Delta m^*_{sat}/m$
	MeV	MeV	fm ⁻³	MeV	MeV	MeV	MeV	MeV	MeV	MeV		
$\langle P_{\alpha} \rangle$	-15.8	32	0.155	60	230	-100	300	0	-500	-500	0.75	0.1
$\sigma_{P_{\alpha}}$	±0.3	± 2	± 0.005	±15	± 20	±100	± 400	±400	± 1000	± 1000	±0.1	±0.1

Small impact at T=0

These parameters are correlated among each other.

[JM, Casali, Gulminelli, PRC 2018]

A semi-agnostic approach for the nuclear EoS



From nuclear physics to neutron star observations

Nuclear Empirical Parameters (NEP) are varied independently in the nuclear meta-model. -> they influence the NS mass-radius relation (astro. observations). [JM, Casali, Gulminelli, PRC 2018]



—> the largest source of uncertainties is the **density dependence of the EoS** (Symmetry energy, phase transitions).

Carlson, Dutra, Lourenço, JM, PRC 107 (2023)

Recent advances in astro. observation which really impact neutron star equation of state:

From gravitational waves...

Binary neutron stars: Produce gravitational waves with frequency # distance between NS.



If the radius is small, the BNS will reach high frequencies. If the radius is large, the BNS will be limited in the maximum frequency.

The first observation of the merger of a BNS in 2017 (**GW170817**) didn't observed the last orbit (due to the noise back-ground).

But there is another way to estimate the compactness of NS: the tidal deformability.



$$\Lambda \equiv \frac{\lambda}{m^5} = \frac{2}{3}k_2 \frac{R^5}{m^5} = \frac{2}{3}k_2 C^{-5}$$

 k_2 is the Love number and C the compactness. Λ quantifies how easy it is to deform the star. It distorts the GW signal, and can therefore be measured from the observation.

Yunes et al., Nature Rev. Phys. 4 (2022).

BNS GW [astro] <=> EoS [nuclear]



New data from GW + NICER X-ray observatory



What shall we expect from future detections of GW?

How all events will be measured:

Coupechoux et al., PRD 107 (2023).



How it will be measured now: Simulation of GW170817 (O4 noise): 5000 -SLy4* SLy4 FOPT1 4000 FOPT2 FOPTS qyc1 3000 qyc2 ЪГ qyc3 SLv4 injection 2000

qyc2 injection

500

600

700

1000

200

300

400







—> an event similar to GW170817 with D<100 Mpc will bring new information.

NICER: Neutron star Interior Cosmic explorER

NICER measures the radius of NS with high precision.

Some pulsars have hot spots located at their surface. When the hot spot goes farther from us, its color if red-shifted (doppler effect). When it goes closer to us, it is blue-shifted.

How it comes?



NICER : an accurate mesure of the neutron star radius

R and M.

The amplitude of the color shift (**doppler-shift**) depends on the speed of the hot spot (v).

The hot spot is located at the surface of the pulsar (radius R).

We know the rotation frequency (f).

In addition :

The trajectory of the photons is curved by strong gravity (temporal delay).



--> The hot spot is always visible!! This effect is proportional to the space-time curvature, and so to the compactness of the star : C = M/R



NICER X-ray observatory + GW



From the thermal emission from qLMXB



quiescent Low Mass X-ray binaries



Black body like emission:

 $F \propto T^4 (R_{obs}/D)^2$ and $R_{obs} = R_{NS}/(1 + M/R)$

Rutledge+ ApJ 577 (2002) Guillot+ ApJ 732 (2011), ApJ 738 (2011), ApJ 772 (2013), ApJL 796 (2014) Özel RPP 76 (2013) Steiner+, ApJL 765 (2013), MNRAS 476 (2018) Heinke+ MNRAS (2014) Lattimer+ ApJ 784 (2014) Bogdanov+ ApJ 831 (2016) Baillot d'Étivaux ApJ 887 (2019), ...

—> Bayesian analysis considering 7 sources in globular clusters, where the EoS is directly injected into the data analysis (first time).

Average radius (12-13km) preferred.

—> These results are consistent with GW and NICER data.

Modeling the dense matter equation of state

The dense matter equation of state



Kyutoku et al., Living Rev. Rel 24 (2021)

- What is the symmetry energy around saturation density?
 - -> fix the composition of matter.
- What is the composition of dense matter?
 - Ordinary neutron, proton, electron and muon degrees of freedom?
 - Or new dof such as hyperons or quarks?
 - -> determine the radius of massive NS.

Microscopic description of dense matter

There is no microscopic theory for dense matter, only models.

Why?

QCD is the theory for **strong force**.

It describes the interaction between quarks and it has a special property: **asymptotic freedom**. -> it is perturbative at high density, non-perturbative at **low energy**.



Nuclear physics is low-energy
-> it is then in the **non-perturbative** regime of QCD.

At low energy, QCD has another property: **color confinement**.



Quarks prefer to be color white, then to combine together 3 complementary colors.
 -> quarks form neutrons and protons.

The nuclear interaction between neutrons and protons is the residual of the strong force (like Van der Waals force in atomic physics).



Bridging from QCD (fundamental theory) to nuclear interaction is difficult. It is necessary to consider an effective or phenomenological approach.

-> There are **several approaches in nuclear physics** with various links to QCD. No theory, but several models.

Description of dense matter

Microscopic approach

Hamiltonian or Lagrangian

Many-body treatment (Hartree-Fock, quantum Monte-Carlo, ...)

Phase(s) transition(s)

Matter at beta-equilibrium

Lepton contribution



EoS in extreme matter

Description of dense matter

Microscopic approach

Hamiltonian or Lagrangian

Many-body treatment (Hartree-Fock, quantum Monte-Carlo, ...)

Phase(s) transition(s)

Matter at beta-equilibrium

Lepton contribution



Agnostic approach

Construct the relation p $<-> \rho$ mathematically.

Ignore the interaction.

Ignore the many-body treatment.

May include phase(s) transition(s).

But ignoring the composition of matter.



EoS in extreme matter

Exemple of an agnostic approach

Polytropic EoS:

$$P(\rho) = K\rho^{\Gamma}$$
Adiabatic index
Pression (dyn cm⁻²) Density (g cm⁻³)

Piecewise polytropes:

Above ρ_0 , a set of densities is considered: $\rho_0 < \rho_1 < \rho_2 < \dots$

$$P(\rho) = K_i \rho^{\Gamma_i}$$

$$e(\rho) = 1 + a_i + \frac{1}{\Gamma_i - 1} K_i \rho^{\Gamma_i - 1}$$

The continuity of P and e at ρ_i is imposed -> fix a_i and K_i .

 ρ_i and Γ_i are free parameters:

- They can be adjusted to reproduce existing EoS,
- Or they can be tossed randomly in a MCMC exploration.

We deduce the energy as $e(\rho) = 1 + a + \frac{1}{\Gamma - 1} K \rho^{\Gamma - 1}$ using $P(\rho) = \rho^2 \frac{de}{d\rho}$



MR relations from piecewise polytropes



-> There are maybe 2 branches of neutron stars: First branch explaining large radii, Second branch explaining small radii.

This is not specific from piecewise polytopes. From microscopic understanding, this comes from the onset of a **phase transition** between **nuclear matter** towards an **exotic matter**.



Quark matter, or hyperon matter, or ...

Agnostic analysis of GW170817



Consequences for extreme matter EoS



Radio and GW astronomy bound the EoS.

Annala+, PRL 120, 172703 (2018)



Simple illustration of a multi-messenger analysis (see talk of S. Antier for more evolved analyses).

Sound speed model (CSM)

The sound speed is defined as: $c_s^2 = \frac{dp}{d\rho}$ (At zero temperature and for a single component)

Introducing the energy density (MeV fm⁻³): $\epsilon = \rho c^2$ and the number density (fm⁻³): $n = \rho/m_{nuc}$

From thermodynamic: Chemical potential: $\mu = \frac{d\epsilon}{dn}$ and number density: $n = \frac{dp}{d\mu}$

We deduce:
$$(c_s/c)^2 = \frac{n}{\mu} \frac{d\mu}{dn}$$

Similarly to the piecewise polytopes, one can consider a set of densities where the sound speed is given.

Given $n_0 < n_1 < n_2 < ...$ with $c_{s,0}^2, c_{s,1}^2, c_{s,2}^2$ well chosen (to reproduce existing model or to explore uncertainties), one can obtain:

$$\mu(n) = \mu_i \left(\frac{n}{n_i}\right)^{c_{s,i}^2} \qquad \epsilon(n) = \epsilon_i + \int \frac{d\epsilon}{dn'} dn' = \epsilon_i + \int \mu(n') dn'$$
$$p(n) = p_i + \int \frac{dp}{dn'} dn' = p_i + \int \frac{dp}{d\epsilon} \frac{d\epsilon}{dn'} dn' = p_i + c_{s,i}^2 \int \mu(n') dn' \qquad \text{Tews+, ApJ 860, 149 (2018)}$$

Sound speed structure from NS observations

Agnostic approach based on the sound speed approach.

[Somasundaram+, arXiv 2022]



Sound speed structure from NS observations



First order phase transition (FOPT) explicitly considered







[Somasundaram+, arXiv 2022]

Impact on the EoS



—> astrophysical information to date do not necessarily require a phase transition to exotic (quark) matter.

Phase transition(s) at high density

Geometrical condition for phase transition:



d average distance between nucleons. R nucleon size.

If the instability condition is d=4R: The density is:
$$n = \frac{8}{d^3} = \frac{1}{8R^3}$$

What is the nucleon size? If it is about 0.7 fm (=R), then $n \approx 0.5$ fm⁻³ $\approx 3n_{sat}$

—> nucleonic matter could be replaced by quark matter at $\approx 3n_{\text{sat}}$.



Heavy neutron stars may have a quark core. Can it be proven by observations?

Phase transition(s) in NS

LIGO-Virgo

Data: GW170817 and NICER (J0030 + J0740).

EoS modelings:

- SLy4 (often used in GW papers).
- First order phase transition to exotic matter.
- Cross-over quarkyonic matter (McLerran & Reddy PRL 2020, JM+ PRC 2022).

[Somasundaram, JM, EPL 138 (2022)]

NICER



—>First order phase transition softens the EoS: hybrid stars are smaller!

Phase transition(s) in NS

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- First order phase transition to exotic matter.

- Cross-over quarkyonic matter (McLerran & Reddy PRL 2020, JM+ PRC 2022).

[Somasundaram, JM, EPL 138 (2022)]



If the FOPT occurs at low density —> masquerade Qyc and produce bigger stars.





Connection to pQCD at high density



Constraints from astrophysical observations are still better than pQCD. Note opposite conclusions from Gorda, Komoltsev and Kurkela, arXiv:2204.11279.

Conclusions

From nuclear physics:

Complementarity -

From astrophysics:

- Better determination of the density dependence of the EoS (Heavy ion collisions, collective motion).
- Better or new measurements of $L_{\text{sym'}} K_{\text{sym'}} Q_{\text{sat}}$.

- Future detections by Advanced LIGO and Virgo (O4 and O5): expect several BNS at long distance, not always with electromagnetic counterparts.
- NICER: release of new pulsars or updated analyses on existing results.



Outlook for the future

The nuclear physics community is ready for the future new data from nuclear physics and from astrophysics.

How changes the nuclear interaction with temperature?

Question we want to answer:

Which **new particles** appear at supra-saturation densities (phase transition)? Links between **deconfinement** and **chiral symmetry** restoration?



Future questions:

How **neutrinos** propagate? What are the **transport properties** of extreme matter?

Are BNS the main astrophysical site

Work in collaboration

France

IP2I Lyon: Guy Chanfray, Hubert Hansen, Mohamad Chamseddine (PhD).
IP2I Lyon Virgo group: Viola Sordini, Roberto Chierici, Jean-François Coupechoux (Post-doc).
IJCLab Orsay: Elias Khan, Nguyen Van Giai.
GANIL: Anthea Fantina.
LPC Caen: Francesca Gulminelli.
IRAP Toulouse: Sébastien Guillot, Natalie Webb.

A lighthouse in the Universe.



Belgium

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LANL: Ingo Tews, Rahul Somasundaram (Post-doc). INT Seattle: Sanjay Reddy. UTK: Andrew Steiner, Zidu Lin (Post-doc).

<u>China</u>

Lanzhou U.: Wenhui Long. Southwest U. (Chongqing): Jiajie Li.

Turkey

Yildiz TU: Kutsal Bozkurt, Hasim Güven.

Brasil

ITA San Jose dos Campos: Brett V. Carlson, Mariana Dutra, Odilon Lourenço.