Signature of hadron-quark crossover in binary-neutron-star mergers

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Plan of the talk

- 1. Inspiral: neutron-star equation of state
- 2. Postmerger: crossover vs. 1st-order phase transition
- 3. Summary

1. Inspiral: neutron-star equation of state

Neutron star binary coalescence

Gravitational waves

high-density matter signature: equation of state test of the theory of gravitation in a non-vacuum

Formation of a hot massive remnant (star/disk)

central engine of short-hard gamma-ray bursts

Mass ejection of neutron-rich material

r-process nucleosynthesis radioactively-driven kilonova

Candidate from O4

~200 binary black holes vs. **0 binary neutron stars** (with a few black hole-neutron star merger candidates)

| ease log in to view full database contents. | | | | | | https://gracedb.ligo.org/superevents/public/O4/# | | |
|---|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|----------|
| | Event ID | Possible Source (Probability) | Significant | UTC | GCN | Location | FAR | Comments |
| | S250211be | BBH (99%), Terrestrial (1%) | Yes | Feb. 11, 2025 04:35:43 UTC | GCN Circular Query Notices VOE | | 1 per 1.7778 years | |
| | S250211aa | BBH (>99%) | Yes | Feb. 11, 2025 02:25:46 UTC | GCN Circular Query Notices VOE | | 1 per 6.7779e+09 years | |
| | S250208ad | BBH (>99%) | Yes | Feb. 8, 2025 03:51:06 UTC | GCN Circular Query Notices VOE | | 1 per 84.502 years | |
| | S250207bg | BBH (>99%) | Yes | Feb. 7, 2025 11:56:45 UTC | GCN Circular Query Notices VOE | | 1 per 6.4428e+27 years | |

Back-of-the-envelope estimation

| Rate at the end of O3 [LIGO&Virgo&KAGR. | A 2023] | BNS | | | | | | |
|---|------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Now this might be lowered by ~3 | Model | $m_1 \in [1, 2.5] M_{\odot}$ $m_2 \in [1, 2.5] M_{\odot}$ | | | | | | |
| (from #binary black holes) 100? | PDB (pair) | 170^{+270}_{-120} | | | | | | |
| | PDB (ind) | 44_{-34}^{+96} | | | | | | |
| Milky-way equivalent galaxy has | MS | 660^{+1040}_{-530} | | | | | | |
| the density of $\sim 0.01~{ m Mpc}^{-3}$ | BGP | $98.0^{+260.0}_{-85.0}$ | | | | | | |
| -> once in ~ 10^5 vr in our Galaxy? | Merged | 10-1700 | | | | | | |
| fonde in 10 grintour duraxy. | | $= \operatorname{Gpc}^{-3} \operatorname{yr}^{-1} =$ | | | | | | |
| Galactic r-process production rate $\sim 10^{-6} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ | | | | | | | | |
| One merger produces ~ $0.1M_{\odot}$ r-process element ??? | | | | | | | | |

Various phases of coalescence



Neutron star equation of state

We want to know the realistic equation of state, that uniquely determines the mass-radius relation



Other macroscopic observables

The binary dynamics, i.e., the orbital motion are affected more directly by other quantities such as



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Quadrupolar tidal deformability

Leading-order finite-size effect on orbital evolution (strongly correlated with the neutron-star radius)

$$\Lambda = G\lambda \left(\frac{c^2}{GM}\right)^5 = \frac{2}{3}k \left(\frac{c^2R}{GM}\right)^5 \propto R^5$$

 $k \sim 0.1$: (second/electric) tidal Love number



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Different orbital evolution





Gravitational waveform

Binaries merge earlier for stiffer equations of state This allows us to measure the tidal deformablity



Uncertainty in the waveform model

1 radian difference usually makes differences Current systematic errors are larger than 1 radian We need accurate waveforms for better estimation



Constraint from GW170817

Systematic bias is only ~100 and currently negligible but may become problematic in the foreseeable future



Current status of understanding

The equation of state has already been constrained and will be constrained more severely in the near future



2. Postmerger: crossover vs. 1st-order phase transition

K. Cannon, K. Fukushima, R. Harada, K. Hotokezaka (U. Tokyo) Y. Fujimoto (UCB/RIKEN)

Various phases of coalescence



Future high-frequency observation

The high density requires high-frequency observations

$$f \sim \sqrt{G\rho}$$

Some proposals are made for postmerger signals



^{2025/2/17}

Third-generation detector

Einstein Telescope, Cosmic Explorer ... aiming at more precise understanding of already-detected binaries



QCD phase diagram

How hadronic matter transitions to quark matter?



Current view of the transition

Smooth crossover transition might be realistic



Crossover vs. 1st order PT

Crossover Smoothly connects two limits Note: we need to explain 2 solar mass neutron stars

1st-order phase transition

Only very high density allows strong phase transition... No effect on astrophysics?



Merger and gravitational waves





2025/2/17

Black-hole formation as a key

Gravitational emission suddenly ends for crossover because of the gravitational collapse of the remnant



Gravitational-wave spectrum

The postmerger peaks do not differ appreciably

The quasinormal-mode cutoff could be distinguishing



Lifetime of the merger remnant

Determined primarily by the total mass of the binary



Weak dependence on mass ratio



Multimessenger observation

If the collapse is too early, no material is left outside and the kilonova cannot be as bright as AT 2017gfo

Our crossover model may be pass this test Mwith mass asymmetry (1s-order PT trivially passes this test because no gravitational collapse)



Spin of the remnant black hole

Likely highest at the threshold of prompt collapse



Reason of the peak

A large amount of the angular momentum is retained

- For a small total mass, the remnant survives long to redistribute angular momentum to the envelope
- For a large total mass, the inspiral is effectively long to emit angular momentum via gravitational waves
- Mass asymmetry tends to enhance the angular momentum loss by tidal torque and mass ejection

Open question: what is the maximum possible spin? which equation of state realizes it?

Did GW170817 form a black hole?

Nobody knows the answer Important for

- QCD phase structure
- gamma-ray burst
- r-process and kilonova

Gravitational waves are emitted for 10-100ms at ~kHz and will be the key [neutrinos? Kyutoku-Kashiyama 2018]



LIGO&Virgo&Fermi&INTEGRAL (2017)

Distinguishable in reality?

Bayesian hypothesis testing with simulated real signals

$$B = \frac{Z_{co}}{Z_{pt}} \sim \frac{L(\text{data}|\text{crossover})}{L(\text{data}|\text{phase transition})}$$

Compare the consistency of the residual with the noise $L \propto \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2}|\text{data} - \text{waveform model}|^2\right)$

Transition scenarios should easily be distinguishable with sensitive detectors and/or nearby events

Distinguishability in data analysis

AdLIGO is insufficient even at design sensitivity (left) Third-generation detectors may do at >100Mpc (right)



3. Summary

Summary

- The neutron-star equation of state is constrained by measuring tidal deformability from inspiral gravitational waveforms, particularly GW170817.
- In the future, postmerger gravitational waveforms may enable us to study the QCD phase structure via the gravitational collapse of merger remnants.
- The key toward these goals is the sensitivity at high frequency, specifically (1) ~3kHz for postmerger peaks, and (2) ~7kHz for quasinormal modes excited at the black-hole formation.

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Appendix

Gravitational-wave detectors

http://gwcenter.icrr.u-tokyo.ac.jp/wp-content/themes/lcgt/images/img_abt_lcgt.jpg

KAGRA (Kamioka, Japan)

Advanced LIGO (Hanford/Livingston, USA)

https://www.advancedligo.mit.edu/graphics/summary01.jpg



Advanced Virgo (Pisa, Italy)

http://virgopisa.df.unipi.it/sites/virgopisa.df.unipi.it.virgopisa/files/banner/virgo.jpg

Binary neutron stars: GW170817

First Cosmic Event Observed in Gravitational Waves and Light

Colliding Neutron Stars Mark New Beginning of Discoveries

Collision creates light across the entire electromagnetic spectrum. Joint observations independently confirm Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, help measure the age of the Universe, and provide clues to the origins of heavy elements like gold and platinum

avitational wave lasted over 100 second

On August 17, 2017, 12:41 UTC, LIGO (US) and Virgo (Europe) detect gravitational waves from the merger of two neutron stars, each around 1.5 times the mass of our Sun. This is the first detection of spacetime ripples from neutron stars. Within two seconds, NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope detects a short gamma-ray burst from a region of the sky overlapping the LIGO/Virgo position. Optical telescope observations pinpoint the origin of this signal to NGC 4993, a galaxy located 130 million light years distant.

https://www.ligo.org/detections/GW170817/images-GW170817/gatech-moviestill2.png-O

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Current constraint

~ 11.5 - 13.5km for typical-mass neutron stars?





Binary-neutron-star coalescence

A remnant massive neutron star will be formed Collapse into a black hole radiating angular momentum

Spacetime curvature, log(rescaled absolute value)



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One-to-one correspondence

Via Tolman-Oppenheimer-Volkoff equation of GR



Tight correlation

Not necessarily independent information is encoded



Astronomical observation

Maximum mass from radio pulsars J1614-2230, J3048+0432, J0740+6620

Tidal deformability from gravitational waves GW170817(, GW190425: not so informative)

Compactness=mass/radius from X-ray pulsations J0030+0451, J0740+6620

+ moment of inertia from radio pulsars in the future?

Binary as a two-body problem

Both gravitational-wave and radio observations basically analyze gravitational two-body problems



http://asd.gsfc.nasa.gov/blueshift/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/htbinarypulsar-1024x835.jpg 2025/2/17

Newton two-body problem

Kepler motion: elliptic orbit characterized by (a, e)Physically, the energy and the angular momentum



Note: actual location of M is more outward

Relativistic two-body problem

Neglecting spins, eccentricity, finite-size effects...



Necessity of numerical simulations

The amplitude maximum comes after the contact

- Gravity (post-Newtonian correction) is nonlinear
- Hydrodynamics (tidal effect) is also nonlinear Analytic computations cannot be fully accurate



Role of theoretical templates

Parameters of binaries are estimated by measuring the match between data and theoretical waveforms Accurate theoretical models are indispensable



Theoretical waveform and the noise

Signals are usually weaker than the detector noise



Taking the correlation with theoretical waveform Accurate theoretical calculations are very important



Strong correlation of $\widetilde{\Lambda}-\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{C}}$



Waveform library

https://www2.yukawa.kyoto-u.ac.jp/~nr_kyoto/SACRA_PUB/catalog.html

Released Model List

| | | | | | | | | | | | 9 | Serach: | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------|------|------|---------------------------------|---------|--------------|
| Model name 🔶 | m ₁ ¢ | m ₂ ¢ | m ₀ (=m ₁ +m ₂) ♦ | q (=m₁/m₂) \$ | η \$ | M _c ¢ | EOS name 🔶 | ^1 ¢ | ^2 ¢ | λ¢ | m ₀ Ω ₀ ≑ | N \$ | Reference \$ |
| <u>15H 135 135 00155 182 135</u> | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | 15H | 1211 | 1211 | 1211 | 0.0155 | 182 | Link |
| <u>15H 135 135 00155 150 135</u> | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | 15H | 1211 | 1211 | 1211 | 0.0155 | 150 | Link |
| <u>15H 135 135 00155 130 135</u> | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | 15H | 1211 | 1211 | 1211 | 0.0155 | 130 | <u>Link</u> |
| <u>15H 135 135 00155 110 135</u> | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | 15H | 1211 | 1211 | 1211 | 0.0155 | 110 | Link |
| <u>15H 135 135 00155 102 135</u> | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | 15H | 1211 | 1211 | 1211 | 0.0155 | 102 | Link |
| <u>15H 135 135 00155 90 135</u> | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | 15H | 1211 | 1211 | 1211 | 0.0155 | 90 | Link |
| <u>125H 135 135 00155 182 135</u> | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | 125H | 863 | 863 | 863 | 0.0155 | 182 | Link |
| 125H 135 135 00155 150 135 | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | 125H | 863 | 863 | 863 | 0.0155 | 150 | Link |
| <u>125H 135 135 00155 130 135</u> | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | 125H | 863 | 863 | 863 | 0.0155 | 130 | Link |
| 125H 135 135 00155 110 135 | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | 125H | 863 | 863 | 863 | 0.0155 | 110 | Link |
| 125H 135 135 00155 102 135 | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | 125H | 863 | 863 | 863 | 0.0155 | 102 | Link |
| <u>125H 135 135 00155 90 135</u> | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | 125H | 863 | 863 | 863 | 0.0155 | 90 | <u>Link</u> |
| H 135 135 00155 182 135 | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | н | 607 | 607 | 607 | 0.0155 | 182 | Link |
| H 135 135 00155 150 135 | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | н | 607 | 607 | 607 | 0.0155 | 150 | Link |
| <u>H 135 135 00155 130 135</u> | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | н | 607 | 607 | 607 | 0.0155 | 130 | <u>Link</u> |
| H 135 135 00155 110 135 | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | н | 607 | 607 | 607 | 0.0155 | 110 | Link |
| H 135 135 00155 102 135 | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | н | 607 | 607 | 607 | 0.0155 | 102 | Link |
| H 135 135 00155 90 135 | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | н | 607 | 607 | 607 | 0.0155 | 90 | Link |
| HB 135 135 00155 182 135 | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | HB | 422 | 422 | 422 | 0.0155 | 182 | Link |
| HB 135 135 00155 150 135 | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | HB | 422 | 422 | 422 | 0.0155 | 150 | <u>Link</u> |
| <u>HB 135 135 00155 130 135</u> | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | HB | 422 | 422 | 422 | 0.0155 | 130 | Link |
| HB 135 135 00155 110 135 | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | HB | 422 | 422 | 422 | 0.0155 | 110 | Link |
| <u>HB 135 135 00155 102 135</u> | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | НВ | 422 | 422 | 422 | 0.0155 | 102 | Link |
| HB 135 135 00155 90 135 | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | HB | 422 | 422 | 422 | 0.0155 | 90 | Link |
| <u>B 135 135 00155 182 135</u> | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | В | 289 | 289 | 289 | 0.0155 | 182 | Link |
| <u>B 135 135 00155 150 135</u> | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | В | 289 | 289 | 289 | 0.0155 | 150 | Link |
| <u>B 135 135 00155 130 135</u> | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | В | 289 | 289 | 289 | 0.0155 | 130 | Link |
| <u>B 135 135 00155 110 135</u> | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | В | 289 | 289 | 289 | 0.0155 | 110 | Link |
| <u>B 135 135 00155 102 135</u> | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | В | 289 | 289 | 289 | 0.0155 | 102 | Link |
| <u>B 135 135 00155 90 135</u> | 1.35 | 1.35 | 2.7 | 1 | 0.25 | 1.17524 | В | 289 | 289 | 289 | 0.0155 | 90 | Link |
| <u>15H 125 146 00155 182 135</u> | 1.25 | 1.46 | 2.71 | 0.86 | 0.2485 | 1.17524 | 15H | 1871 | 760 | 1200 | 0.0155 | 182 | Link |
| <u>15H 125 146 00155 150 135</u> | 1.25 | 1.46 | 2.71 | 0.86 | 0.2485 | 1.17524 | 15H | 1871 | 760 | 1200 | 0.0155 | 150 | Link |
| II | | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | · | | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | · | | | · ··· □ | · ¬ | · ··· — · |

GW170817

The longest signal ever (longer than 100 second) Detected by LIGO Hanford/Livingston detectors Virgo did not detect, but informative for localization



Parameters of GW170817

The chirp mass is determined to $10^{-3}M_{\odot}$ precision The masses suggest that both are neutron stars Tidal deformability was measured for the first time

| Binary inclination θ_{JN} | 146^{+25}_{-27} deg | |
|---|---|---|
| Binary inclination θ_{JN} using EM | 151^{+15}_{-11} deg | |
| distance constraint [108] | | |
| Detector-frame chirp mass \mathcal{M}^{det} | $1.1975^{+0.0001}_{-0.0001} \ \mathrm{M_{\odot}}$ | $m_{1}^{3/5}m_{2}^{3/5}$ |
| Chirp mass \mathcal{M} | $1.186^{+0.001}_{-0.001} \ \mathrm{M}_{\odot}$ | $\mathcal{M} \coloneqq \frac{m_1 m_2}{(1 + 1)^{1/5}}$ |
| Primary mass m_1 | $(1.36, 1.60) M_{\odot}$ | $(m_1 + m_2)^{1/5}$ |
| Secondary mass m_2 | (1.16, 1.36) M _☉ | |
| Total mass m | $2.73^{+0.04}_{-0.01}~{ m M}_{\odot}$ | |
| Mass ratio q | (0.73, 1.00) | |
| Effective spin χ_{eff} | $0.00^{+0.02}_{-0.01}$ | |
| Primary dimensionless spin χ_1 | (0.00, 0.04) | LIGO&Virgo (2019) |
| Secondary dimensionless spin χ_2 | (0.00, 0.04) | |
| Tidal deformability $\tilde{\Lambda}$ with flat prior | 300_{-190}^{+500} (symmetric)/ 300_{-}^{+} | $^{420}_{230}(\text{HPD})$ |
| 2025/2/17 | | 55 |

Kyoto gravitational-wave model

TaylorF2: analytic, Post-Newton phase $(x \propto f^{2/3})$

 $\Psi_{\text{tidal}}^{2.5\text{PN}} = \frac{3}{128\eta} \left(-\frac{39}{2} \tilde{\Lambda} \right) x^{5/2} \left[1 + \frac{3115}{1248} x - \pi x^{3/2} + \frac{28024205}{3302208} x^2 - \frac{4283}{1092} \pi x^{5/2} \right]$ + correction terms associated w/ mass asymmetry ($\tilde{\Lambda}$: binary tidal deformability, i.e., weighted average)

We introduce a nonlinear-in- $\widetilde{\Lambda}$ term (empirically)

$$-\frac{39}{2}\tilde{\Lambda}(1+12.55\tilde{\Lambda}^{2/3}x^{4.240})$$

This $\tilde{\Lambda}^{2/3}$ term well reproduces numerical relativity

GW190425

Total mass $m_{tot} = 3.4^{+0.3}_{-0.1} M_{\odot}$, no EM counterpart Heavier by >5sigma than Galactic binary neutron stars



Case of GW190425



Constraint from the kilonova?

Indication of the large ejecta mass of ~ $0.05 M_{\odot}$ It has been claimed that "this requires $\widetilde{\Lambda} > 400$ "



A lot of counterexamples

Our conclusion: Lower limits on $\widetilde{\Lambda}$ can be derived only under restrictive assumptions

(vertical bars denote mass ejection efficiency from the disk, not errors)



Reason?

 M_{max} may not be strongly correlated with $\tilde{\Lambda} \propto R^{\sim 6}$ of typical-mass neutron stars

If the remnant survived moderately long due to the large value of M_{max} , there should be no reason that mass ejection is weak



Postmerger peak frequency

Depends on the equation of state and the total mass (also weakly on the mass ratio)



Pre-postmerger correlation

Frequency at the amplitude peak is correlated strongly with the property of premerger neutron stars



Nondetection for GW170817

Simply, sensitivity at high frequency is insufficient



What should we understand then?

Moderate-density (around twice the saturation density) will be understood precisely by a lot of observations

On the basis of this idea, we would like to understand properties of ultrahigh-density matter



Uncertainty in chiral EFT

The validity range is crucial for strength of constraints



Current view on the sound speed

Not stiff at low density, but $2M_{\odot}$ must be supported.

Conformal limit $(c_s^2/c^2 = 1/3)$ is likely to be exceeded



Strong 1st-order phase transition

The mass-radius relation breaks suddenly

An extreme case results in the so-called "twin star"



Effect on the postmerger peak

Significant deviation from expectation for hadrons The shift in the peak frequency may reveal strong 1storder phase transition at moderately high density



Structure of the merger remnant

Density/temperature structures are not very different Quarks appear at the high-n core and high-T envelope



Quarkyonic matter

Baryons emerges near the Fermi surface of quarks



Sound speed of quarkyonic matter


Sound speed in the crossover

Crossover may induce a peak in the sound speed

Phase transition makes the sound speed very low



Mass-radius relation



Difference from our previous work

The conformal limit, $P \propto \rho^{\Gamma}$ with $\Gamma \sim 4/3$, is realized at high density relevant to postmerger remnants

(we also assume 1st-order phase transition achieves this at superhigh density beyond astronomical reach)

| EOS | $\log P_1(dyne/cm^2))$ | Γ_1 | Γ_2 | Γ_3 | $M_{\rm max}(M_{\odot})$ | $R_{1.4}(\text{km})$ | Approach | Composition |
|------|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| APR4 | 34.269 | 2.830 | 3.445 | 3.348 | 2.213 | 11.428 | Variational method | np |
| SLy | 34.348 | 3.005 | 2.988 | 2.851 | 2.049 | 11.736 | Effective-one-body potential | np |
| H3 | 34.646 | 2.787 | 1.951 | 1.901 | 1.788 | 13.840 | Relativistic mean field | npH |
| H4 | 34.669 | 2.909 | 2.246 | 2.144 | 2.032 | 13.759 | Relativistic mean field | npH |
| ALF2 | 34.055 | 4.070 | 2.411 | 1.890 | 2.086 | 13.188 | APR + Quark matter | npQ |
| PS | 34.671 | 2.216 | 1.640 | 2.365 | 1.755 | 15.472 | Pion condensation | ${ m n} \pi^0$ |

We have not investigated such a soft high-density case

Hotokezaka, KK+ (2011)

Relation to independent studies

There exists other studies, e.g., those based on QHC We require explicitly that the perturbative QCD regime is realized after the crossover from hadronic matter



Results with QHC

Stiffening associated with the sound-velocity peak modifies the peak frequency to some extent



Magnetic-field and the peak

Magnetar-level premerger magnetic fields could also affect the peak frequency



Quasinormal modes of black holes

Damped oscillations governed by the mass and spin

Excited when they are formed in gravitational collapse



Which density range we can see?

The collapse is likely to set in when the central density reaches the maximum density of spherical stars

Not likely to dig into the unstable branch [cf. Ujevic+ 2024]



Possible source of uncertainties

Finite-temperature effect? (modeled by "Γ_{th}")

We vary systematically the strength of thermal pressure

Neutrino effect? (neglected)

Its time scale is ~1s, much longer than our target

Magnetic-field effect? (neglected)

Its time scale is ~0.1s, again longer than our target

Grid resolution? (finite, of course)

Checked that dependence is weak, but not clean