# Signatures of Primordial Black Hole and Neutron Star Interactions



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## **Detour: Neutron Star (NS) Margars**



#### Where do heavy elements (gold) come from? $\rightarrow$ major problem

#### **Heavy Element Production in Merger Material**

- Ejected material is neutron rich  $\rightarrow$  great site for r-process
- <u>R-process nucleosynthesis</u>
   → main furnace of heavy elements in astronomy





Nuclear reactions in expanding ejecta produce heat + afterglow (kilonova)

# **Making Gold with Tiny PBHs**

• Origin of heavy elements (gold) major long-standing problem

→ neutron star mergers great, but might not be enough e.g. [Kobayashi+, 2020]



 Elegant solution: asteroid-mass PBHs making DM captured by neutron stars, small PBHs eat & explode them → "r-process nucleosynthesis" factories



...need more simulations, interesting ideas by D. Radice

[Fuller, Kusenko, V.T., PRL, 1704.01129] + Viewpoint Highlight by H.-T. Janka

# **PBH-NS: Nucleosynthesis**

- Neutron-rich ejecta
  - $\rightarrow$  heavy element production



 PBH-NS emission consistent with Milky Way & Ultra-faint Dwarf abundance



[Fuller, Kusenko, V.T., PRL, 1704.01129]

#### Neutron Stars (+ White Dwarfs) as PBH Laboratories



[Fuller, Kusenko, V.T., PRL, 1704.01129; V.T., PLB, 1707.05849; V.T., PLB, 1710.09458]

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### **Novel Generic Signal for NS Mergers**

Positrons produced in heated NS merger ejecta → some escape → annihilate to 511 keV



With LIGO observations can explain 511 keV signal in Galactic Center !

[Fuller, Kusenko, Radice, V.T., PRL, 1811.00133]

#### **511 keV radiation**

Escaping ~MeV positrons annihilate via positronium bound state formation ✓
 (as desired for Galactic Center excess) → 511 keV radiation



[Fuller, Kusenko, Radice, V.T., PRL, 1811.00133]

## **NS Signal Connection, Smoking Gun ?**

• Proposal directly links r-process and 511 keV



- Observations of Reticulum II dwarf spheroidal hint at heavy elements + 511 keV ?
  - $\rightarrow$  smoking gun signal of mergers

[Ji, Frebel+, *Nature*, 2016; Siegert+ 2016] ...Siegert+, 2021 → 511 keV might be reduced, but excess still possible

[Fuller, Kusenko, Radice, V.T., PRL, 1811.00133]

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### **Origin of Solar-mass Black Holes**

- Solar-mass (~1-2.5 M☉) BHs unexpected in astrophysics → PBHs ?
- LIGO detected candidate event [Abbott+, ApJL, 2020...] ...how to tell BH origin ?
- Solution: transmuted BHs from PBHs (or particle) DM eating NSs follow NS mass distribution





[**V.T.**+, *PRL*, 2008.12780]

### **Identifying Black Hole - Neutron Star (BH-NS) Mergers**

- PBH-PBH mergers have been associated with LIGO BH-BH GW observations
- First BH-NS candidates observed by LIGO [Abbott+, ApJL, 2021...] ....from PBHs?
- Unlike PBH-PBH, PBH-NS can only form after star formation



$$\mathcal{R}_{\rm PBH-NS} = 4\pi \int_{0}^{R_{\rm vir}} \mathrm{d}r r^2 \frac{\rho_{\rm NS}}{m_1} \frac{\rho_{\rm PBH}}{m_2} \langle \sigma v_{\rm rel} \rangle$$
2-body scattering with GW emission

[Sasaki, V.T., Vardanyan, Zhang, ApJ, 2110.09509]

#### **Identifying Black Hole - Neutron Star (BH-NS) Mergers**



- PBH-NS rates subdominant → observed NS-BH events are <u>astrophysical !</u>
- *True, even if PBH-PBH are significant*  $\rightarrow$  contributions from early Universe
- Do not expect significant multimessenger contributions / emissions from PBH-NS

[Sasaki, **V.T.**, Vardanyan, Zhang, *ApJ*, 2110.09509]

# Summary

- Renaissance era in PBH research synergistic with multimessenger astronomy
- New connection between 511 keV/r-process for NS mergers
- Novel signatures from NSs interacting with small PBHs, more to explore
- PBH-NS mergers do not significantly contribute to signatures, BH-NS astrophysical → however, PBH-PBH mergers can play important role



