

Abstract Submitted  
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**Binary Neutron Star Impostors Event GW190814**<sup>1</sup> ANTONIOS TSOKAROS, MILTON RUIZ, STUART SHAPIRO, LUNAN SUN, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA, KOJI URYU, University of the Ryukyus, Okinawa, Japan — In the first part of this talk I will address the following question: can we distinguish a binary black hole undergoing a merger from a binary neutron star if the individual compact companions have masses that fall inside the so-called mass gap of  $3 - 5 M_{\odot}$ ? For neutron stars, achieving such masses typically requires extreme compactness. I therefore will present general relativistic initial data and evolution simulations of binary neutron stars-the impostors- initially in quasiequilibrium circular orbits and supported by an EOS near the causal limit that exhibit extreme compactness. I will compare their gravitational waveforms with those of merging black hole binaries of the same mass. In the second part I will discuss event GW190814 of a merging binary having a  $\sim 23M_{\odot}$  black hole and a  $\sim 2.6M_{\odot}$  compact companion. I will explore some consequences of the assumption that the secondary was a neutron star.

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