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Post-merger gravitational wave searches using the Cross-Correlation Algorithm TANAZZA KHANAM, ALESSANDRA CORSI, Texas Tech University, ROB COYNE, University of Rhode Island, ERIC SOWELL, Texas Tech University — After the multi-messenger detection of the binary neutron star merger GW170817, associated with gamma-ray burst (GRB) 170817a, one big open question left is the nature of the compact remnant which acts as a central engine for the GRB. In the context of cosmological GRBs, it has been suggested that X-ray afterglows showing lightcurve plateaus at timescales of order 10^2 - 10^4 s since the GRB/merger could harbor a long-lived central engine, such as a long-lived highly magnetized NS (magnetar). Newly born magnetars have also been proposed as potential gravitational wave (GW) sources. Motivated by these considerations, we present first results from a new GW data analysis method (the Cross Correlation Algorithm - CoCoA) targeting long-lived GWs from magnetars formed in binary NS mergers associated with GRBs. We show how our search method improves substantially on previously published results for post-merger GW searches in GW170817, but requires a more restrictive hypothesis on the GW signal properties. We conclude by discussing the prospects for these types of searches in future runs of the LIGO detectors.

Tanazza Khanam
Texas Tech University

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