Extended emission in short gamma-ray bursts from fallback accretion

Raphaël Duqué^{*, 1}, Carlo Musolino¹, Luciano Rezzolla¹

April 5, 2023

* Proposed speaker for Journées SF2A 2023 in Strasbourg.

¹ Institut für Theoretische Physik, Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Abstract

I will present a new model for the high-energy extended emission components of short gammaray bursts, in which this emission is attributed to the fallback of matter ejected in the progenitor compact binary merger. We explore this picture with state-of-the-art general-relativistic simulations of binary neutron star mergers including a two-moment neutrino transport scheme, followed by a semi-analytical treatment for the fallback dynamics and nuclear reaction network calculations for the heating of the fallback flow by r-process nucleosynthesis. We find that this fallback material can shine in the gamma-rays and X-rays with luminosities $\geq 10^{48}$ erg/s for hundreds of seconds, proving it a good candidate to produce extended emission in short gamma-ray bursts. In addition, our results reproduce some interesting phenomenological traits of extended-emission episodes, such as their relatively softer spectra with respect to prompt emission and their exponential cutoffs. I will also describe how the radiation from the fallback flow can impact the other electromagnetic signals from binary compact mergers, in particular the kilonova transient. Finally, I will draw perspectives for a joint study of the gamma-ray prompt, extended emission, and kilonova signals in short gamma-ray bursts where one associates these emission components with distinct ejecta components revealed by a single numerical approach to the merger and post-merger phases.