



Introduction

- Our project is a collaboration between computer and domain scientists to simulate binary neutron star mergers
- Our starting point is the highly scalable 2HOT code
- Our algorithms of choice are smoothed particle hydrodynamics and the hashed octree data structure

Physics Accomplishments

- Add Equation of State in 2HOT
- ► Generate realistic initial data for SPH code
- Add gravitational radiation-reaction
- Merge binary neutron stars
- Analyse the ejecta

Computer Science Accomplishments

- Improve the Equation of State lookup
- Improve the data distribution and the structure generation
- Use and benchmark efficient runtimes with a proxy application

Astrophysical Motivation

Neutron stars (NS)

- Remnants of stellar core-collapse
- Compact objects supported against gravity by the strong nuclear force and neutron degeneracy pressure
- Density and electron fraction plotted to the right





Binary NS mergers: observational signatures

- Gravitational waves ($\sim 10^{57}$ erg/s in ~ 1 ms)
- Short gamma-ray bursts ($\sim 10^{50}$ erg/s in ~ 0.2 s)
- Produced in ejecta, or unbound flow (plotted on the left): Infrared "macronova/kilonova" transients
 - $(\sim 10^{40} \text{ erg/s for} \sim 7 \text{ d})$
- ▶ Radio transients ($\sim 10^{50}$ erg over 5 100 years)

r-process nucleosynthesis

- Ejecta conducive to rapid neutron capture by heavy-seed nuclei
- r-process may help explain abundance of heavy elements in universe (residuals plotted to the right).
- "Kilonova" afterglow (faint supernova-like transient) powered by radioactive decay of freshly synthesized heavy elements



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r < 2h

Smoothed Particle Hydrodynamics (SPH)

- Why? can handle deformations (mergers), low densities (ejecta) and vacuum
- What? explicit numerical *mesh-free* method \rightarrow solve hydrodynamic PDE: Lagrangian, discretized in set of fluid elements called "particles"
- How? their smooth field variables (density, velocity, internal energy, pressure) and derivatives interpolated via smoothing kernel W

$$\langle A \rangle (\vec{r}) \approx \sum_{b} \frac{m_{b}}{\rho_{b}} A(\vec{r}_{b}) W(|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_{b}|, h)$$

h smoothing length (hydro interaction range) evolved for each particle (adaptive resolution)

Equation of state (matter behavior) to close system

► Pros:

- Discretized form exactly conserves mass, energy, linear & angular momentum \forall resolutions
- Exactly advects fluid properties
- Easily combines with tree methods for
- solving Newtonian gravity via N-body

Cons:

- Special care must be taken when handling
- high gradients (shocks, NS surface) Restricted to low-order convergence
- Can struggle to resolve turbulence
- dominated flows
- Requires careful setup of initial distribution of particles

We acknowledge the support and guidance of our mentors: Christoph Junghans, Ben Bergen, Robert Bird, Josh Dolence, Wesley Even, Chris Fryer, Oleg Korobkin, Allen McPherson, Robert Pavel, and Geoff Womeldorff. Finally, we thank Brandon Wiggins for his extensive help and advice regarding 2HOT and SPH.

comparison tool

Domain Partitioning and Problem Space Representations for Compact Binary Mergers

Easy to read and write

► Mature



degree of spatial discontinuity, with all nodes owning particles from each star.

This work was approved for unlimited public release as per LA-UR-16-25665 for the poster and LA-UR-16-24916 for the abstract.