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## **Neutron Stars and Black Holes: Mergers and More Magic**

The recently detected gravitational wave signals of the merger events of pairs of black holes and neutron stars have revolutionized astrophysics by revealing new sources of fundamental importance for exploring the Universe. In this talk, I will demonstrate the exotic nature and awesome physical processes related to these binary compact objects. I will show examples of our recent theoretical work on predicting their merger rates in the local Universe, as well as their masses and spins. Finally, I will report on future avenues in this field of research –all with some tricks and a personal touch.

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