

Doing the unexpected with binary black holes

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The beginning of the gravitational wave era included more than just the first direct detection of gravitational waves. This first detection, GW150914, was of a BBH accompanied by a possible electromagnetic counterpart by the Fermi GBM. Although there are good reasons to be skeptical that the EM detection was truly coincident, it nevertheless makes sense to consider BBH alternatives either to understand future surprises or instead to bound such alternatives. I will discuss some such BBH alternatives, including BHs charged either in GR or Einstein-Maxwell-dilaton.