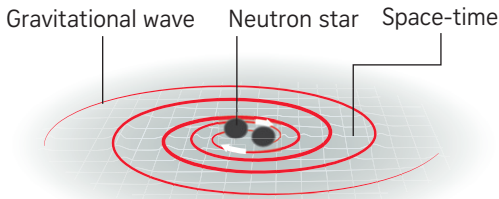


Fusion of neutron stars

The collision happened 130 million years ago, when dinosaurs roamed the Earth. It was so far away that the shock waves reached the planet only in August.

Aug 17

Astronomers detect extremely strong gravitational waves for 100 seconds



2 seconds later

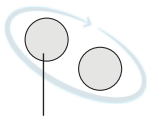
Gamma ray burst observed

In the hours and days that follow

X-rays, ultraviolet rays, and infrared rays are detected

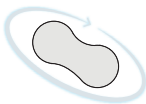
HOW IT HAPPENED

1 Stars draw closer and turn faster and faster around each other

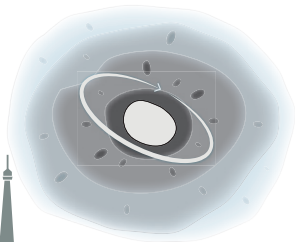


- The size of London
- The most dense matter in the cosmos*

2 Collision then fusion



3 Matter is ejected



*A spoonful of "neutron stars" would weigh as much as 100,000 Eiffel Towers