

**Cosmic Gold: Neutron Star Mergers,
Gravitational Waves,
and the Origin of the Elements**

A Lecture by Eliot Quataert

Friday, March 1st, 7:00PM

Cahill Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics
California Institute of Technology

Scientists have recently developed a new way to `see' the universe, using the gravitational waves predicted by Einstein nearly a century ago. These waves can teach us about some of the most exotic objects known, including star "corpses" known as black holes and neutron stars. Remarkably, they have also helped solve a longstanding puzzle about where in the Universe some of the elements we know and love here on Earth are produced, including gold, platinum, uranium, and even Californium!

Image Credit: LIGO/GATech/NSF

These are free lectures at a public level followed by guided stargazing with telescopes (weather permitting). All events are held at the Cahill Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics at Caltech. No reservations are needed. Lectures are 30 minutes, stargazing lasts 90 minutes. Stay only as long as you want.

For directions, weather updates, and more information, please visit:

<http://outreach.astro.caltech.edu>