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Neutron star mergers across the electromagnetic spectrum

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The discovery of the gravitational wave transient GW170817 and its electromagnetic counterparts ushered in a new era of multi-messenger astrophysics, in which both gravitational waves and light provide complementary views of the same source. These observations gave astronomers the unprecedented opportunity to probe the merger of two neutron stars, solving decade-long mysteries about the origin of short duration gamma-ray bursts (GRBs) and the production of elements heavier than iron. In this talk, I will present the long-term evolution of GW170817 across the electromagnetic spectrum, and discuss its similarities with the sample of short GRBs at cosmological distances.