



Contribution ID: 699

Type: **Invited talk in the parallel session**

## **A new source of X-rays in GW170817 3.4 years after the merger**

*Monday, 5 July 2021 18:35 (25 minutes)*

GW170817 was detected 3.4 years ago as the first object to have both a gravitational wave and an EM counterpart. It provided the first confirmation of the connection between short gamma-ray bursts and binary neutron star mergers. For almost 3 years, the broadband EM observations of GW170817 from radio to X-rays showed a very well-behaved simple power-law spectrum, with no spectral evolution. The non-thermal emission across multiple wavelengths was best explained by a model with a structured jet viewed off-axis. However, observations after 3.4 years narrate a story different from expectations. We have observed a statistically significant excess in X-rays compared to the predictions from a structured jet model at the current epoch, which was not accompanied by an excess in radio. We investigate several theoretical models that could lead to such an excess in X-rays only, including a plausible emergence of a kilonova afterglow, which if true, would make it the first-ever to be observed. We finally discuss the implications of these observations on the nature of the merger remnant.

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**Session Classification:** GRB 170817A and Binary Models

**Track Classification:** Fast Transients: GRB 170817A and Binary Models