



Contribution ID: 408

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

Status and future perspectives of the electromagnetic follow-up of gravitational wave sources

Thursday, 11 July 2024 18:06 (22 minutes)

The search and characterization of the electromagnetic counterparts of gravitational wave emitters requires the collaborative efforts of researchers with both theoretical and observational expertise extending over the full range of the electromagnetic spectrum. The lessons learned from the first two observing runs of the advanced interferometers and the successful story of the detection of the afterglow and kilonova after the binary neutron star merger GW 170817 motivated astrophysicists across Europe to gather together to facilitate the access to top observing facilities and to guarantee an effective team organization. In this talk we review the main results accomplished the European community in this field up to the present observing run (O4), and the challenges that have to be addressed to meet the improved sensitivity of the third generation interferometers.

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Session Classification: Gravitational kHz waves - LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA

Track Classification: Gravitational Waves (GW): Gravitational kHz waves - LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA