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The Landscape of Relativistic Stellar Explosions

Wednesday, 13 December 2023 08:40 (50 minutes)

I will review developments in the study of relativistic stellar explosions, systems in which a newborn compact object drives a transient powerful outflow. For decades, the only firmly established example was long-duration gamma-ray bursts, thought to represent the special case of a narrow ultra-relativistic jet lasting seconds. However, in recent years the landscape has broadened dramatically because discovery methods have expanded from solely ɣ-ray satellites to include time-domain surveys at other wavelengths. The observed diversity likely arises from variations in end-stage stellar evolution, compact-object accretion, and jet physics.

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