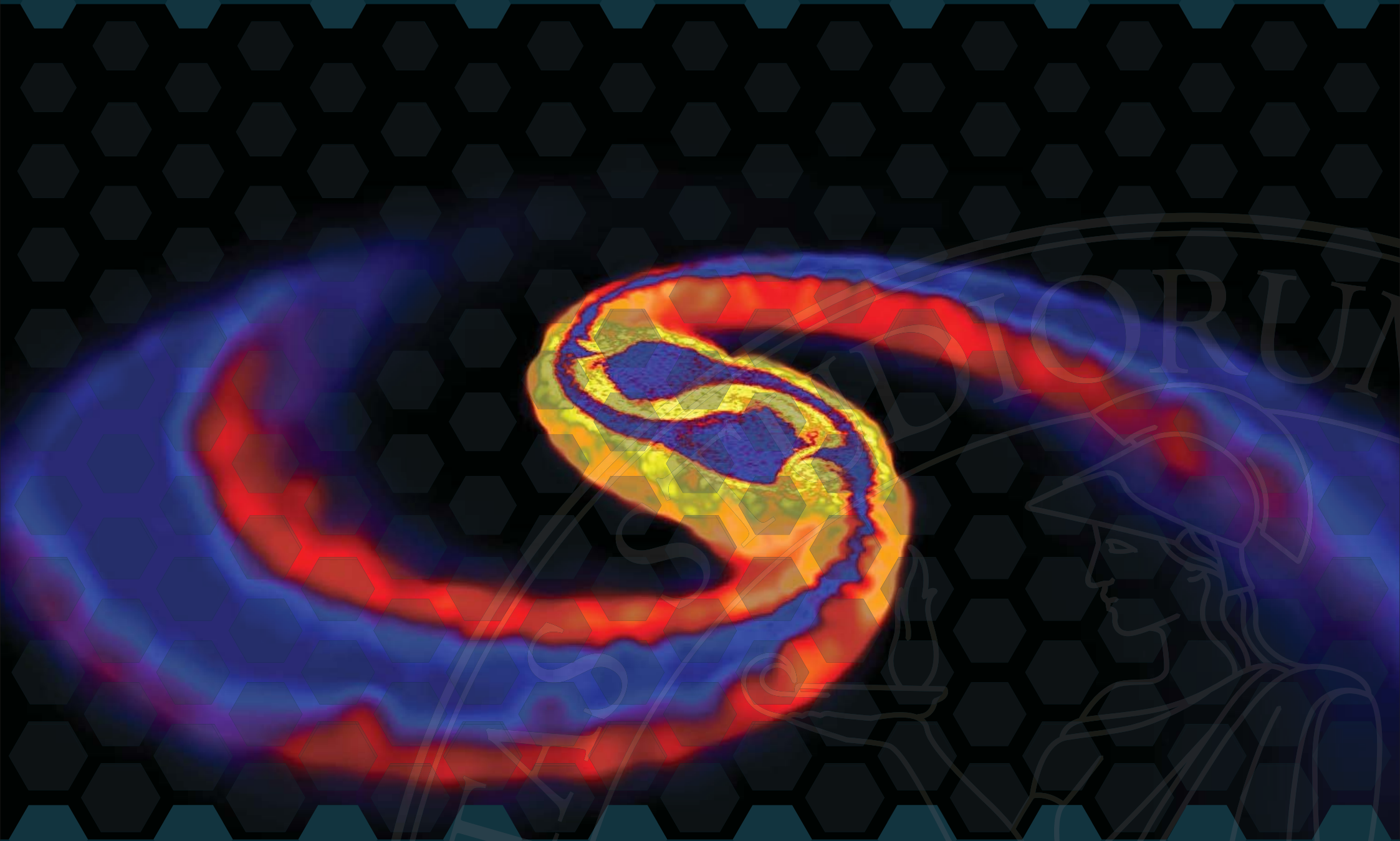


PHYSICS COLLOQUIA 2017



Compact binary mergers are currently considered the best candidates for the site of rapid neutron capture (r-process), responsible for the creation of half of the elements heavier than iron. Mergers are expected to produce gravitational waves, likely to be observed by the LIGO collaboration, and eject large amounts of neutron-rich material where the r-process operates. In this talk, I will discuss the important role of nuclear physics to determine the r-process yields. In addition to neutron captures and beta decay, fission rates and yields of superheavy neutron-rich nuclei are fundamental to understand the r-process dynamics and nucleosynthesis.

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**Explosive nucleosynthesis of heavy elements:
an astrophysical and nuclear physics challenge**

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UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO
DOTTORATO DI RICERCA IN FISICA
ASTROFISICA E FISICA APPLICATA

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