

4 Enabling the Discovery of Kilonovae Associated with Neutron Star Mergers with Electromagnetic Follow-up

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6 ABSTRACT

7 The Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) is designed to detect gravitational  
8 waves (GWs) caused by events such as merging neutron stars or black holes. The first detection of  
9 GWs and electromagnetic radiation (EMR) from a binary neutron star (BNS) merger occurred on  
10 August 17, 2017, with the discovery of GW170817, accompanied by a kilonova (KN) counterpart. KNe  
11 are responsible for the synthesis of heavy elements beyond iron in the universe. During LIGO’s fourth  
12 observing run, O4, photometric and spectroscopic data analysis techniques are being used to detect  
13 and perform detailed studies of KN counterparts. The Gemini Multi-Object Spectrograph (GMOS)  
14 will be used to recreate the results from GW170817. The pipeline will then be adapted further to fit a  
15 Blackbody curve to each candidate detected in O4 and future observing runs. This automated pipeline  
16 will help reduce the data and determine the composition and temperature of KNe. By updating this  
17 pipeline, candidate KNe will be analyzed quicker and more efficiently during transient searches for the  
18 EM counterpart of GW detections. This method will enable the detection of early KN emission, which  
19 is crucial for studying the synthesis of heavy elements and understanding the physics of BNS mergers.  
20 After building and testing this model, the data reduction pipeline for photometry and spectroscopy of  
21 KNe during O4 will be used to aid in the real-time study of heavy element nucleosynthesis.

22 1. INTRODUCTION

23 1.1. *LIGO*

24 LIGO consists of two identical Michelson interferome-  
25 ter detectors located in Hanford, Washington, and Liv-  
26 ington, Louisiana, with each detector consisting of two,  
27 four-kilometer long, L-shaped arms<sup>1</sup>. This observatory  
28 was built to study ripples in spacetime, or GWs. GWs  
29 are the bending of space and time; as space is stretched  
30 in one direction, it is compressed in the perpendicular di-  
31 rection simultaneously. As this happens, one arm of the  
32 interferometer gets shorter and the other gets longer as  
33 the GW is passing. Although these changes are minute,  
34 the observatory is designed to detect these alterations.  
35 Since the lengths of the arms are changing in opposing  
36 ways, or differentially, this motion is called Differential  
37 Arm motion, or differential displacement<sup>1</sup>. Similar to  
38 the length of the arms, the length of the laser beams  
39 also become longer and shorter with the passing of the  
40 wave, causing an oscillation pattern. These oscillations  
41 interact with the beamsplitter inside the interferometer  
42 and are out of alignment when they hit the beamsplitter

43 due to the GW. A flickering light will then be emitted  
44 from the interferometer as a result of this event. The  
45 GWs events that LIGO is sensitive to are caused by  
46 events such as mergers of binary neutron stars, neutron  
47 stars and black holes, or binary black holes. There have  
48 been numerous upgrades on the detector, mainly for the  
49 design sensitivity<sup>2</sup>. The most prominent source of uncer-  
50 tainty for the detectors is noise. Various noise sources,  
51 such as laser, seismic, angular controls, and residual gas  
52 noise cause false detections almost every day. One of  
53 the best ways found to combat these detrimental noise  
54 sources is to have two detectors at different sites, thus  
55 eliminating localization errors. Therefore, if only one  
56 detector picks up a signal, it is discarded, but if both  
57 locations detect the same signal at the same time, it is  
58 regarded as an event. Multiple trial runs have been com-  
59 pleted with both the LIGO and Virgo detectors. Virgo  
60 is one of LIGO’s sister facilities, located in Pisa, Italy<sup>2</sup>.  
61 This facility is similar to the LIGO setup with two per-  
62 pendicular arms and a beamsplitter inside the interfer-  
63 ometer<sup>2</sup>. Together, using triangulation for source iden-  
64 tification, these facilities have discovered many binary

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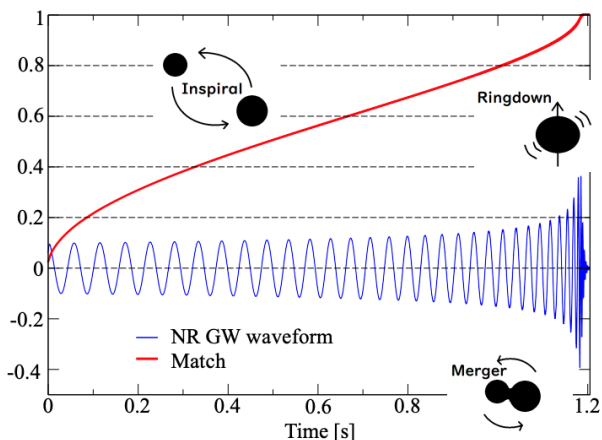
<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ligo.caltech.edu/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.virgo-gw.eu/science/detector/>

65 mergers, thus proving Einstein’s theory of general rela-  
 66 tivity.

### 67 1.2. Binary Mergers

68 There are two main types of mergers that will be fo-  
 69 cused on in this paper: BNS and neutron star-black hole  
 70 (NSBH) mergers. A binary merger is when two very  
 71 massive bodies orbit around each other and the same  
 72 center of mass for the system, gain angular acceleration  
 73 due to the gravitational fields of each object, and even-  
 74 tually collide with each other in an extremely energetic  
 75 event. There are three stages of these events in which  
 76 GWs are expelled: the inspiral, the merger, and the BH-  
 77 ringdown. Figure 1.0 shows these defining stages of the  
 78 GW merger event.



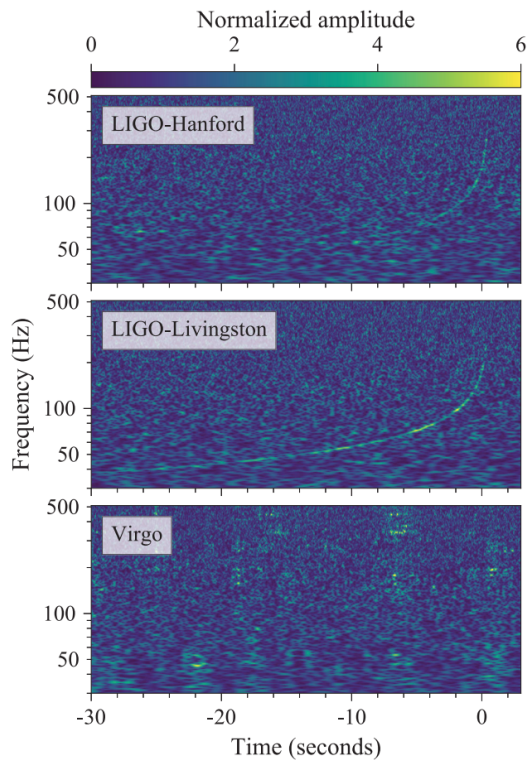
**Figure 1.** Binary merger process with the GW waveform. Figure from (Isoyama et al. 2021).

79 A BNS merger is ultimately a collision of the two mas-  
 80 sive neutron stars in the binary system. The detection  
 81 of NSBH mergers has been much more rare, but still  
 82 plausible. While a BNS merger will either merge into a  
 83 larger neutron star or a black hole, a NSBH and binary  
 84 black hole (BBH) merger will both merge into a black  
 85 hole (Abbott et al. 2017). These enormously dense and  
 86 massive objects collide, triggering a flash of light that  
 87 is caused by the GW ejected from the collision. LIGO  
 88 and Virgo can detect the GWs from these collisions. Up  
 89 until the start of this project, two BNSs and two NSBHs  
 90 have been confirmed (The LIGO Scientific Collaboration  
 91 et al. 2021).

### 92 1.3. GW170817

93 On August 17, 2017, the LIGO and Virgo detec-  
 94 tors discovered the first GWs from the BNS merger:  
 95 GW170817. Figure 2.0 shows the GWs detected.

96 Almost simultaneously, the Fermi and Integral satel-  
 97 lites detected EMR in the form of gamma-rays (Gold-



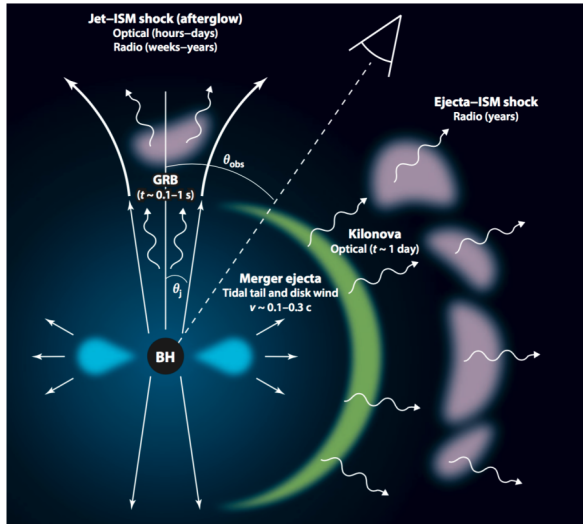
**Figure 2.** LIGO data from the GW170817 event. Figure from Abbott et al. (2017).

98 stein et al. 2017) This was a landmark event in the his-  
 99 tory of astrophysics. The chirp mass of this system was  
 100 measured to be

$$M_C \equiv \frac{(M_1 M_2)^{3/5}}{(M_1 + M_2)^{1/5}} \simeq 1.118 M_\odot \quad (1)$$

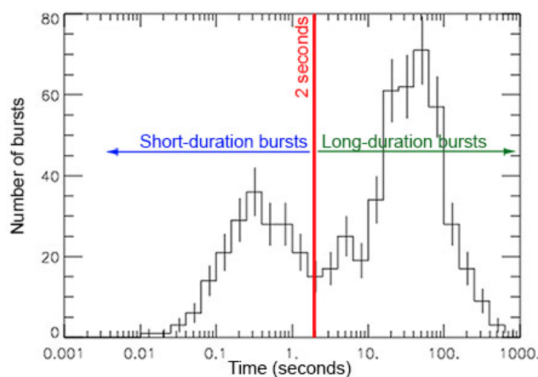
101 The signal to noise ratio (SNR) from this event was  
 102 about 32.4 (Abbott et al. 2017). The event, which oc-  
 103 curred on LIGO’s second observing run (O2), was about  
 104 40 megaparsecs away (Abbott et al. 2017). GW170817  
 105 was one of the most studied events in the history of  
 106 physics and astronomy. The BNS merger lit up an im-  
 107 mense range of frequencies that were detectable  
 108 on the entire electromagnetic spectrum.

109 When the gravitational pull from two exceedingly  
 110 dense objects in a binary system begins to angularly  
 111 accelerate the bodies around each other, they begin to  
 112 collapse inwards. A merger occurs when the two objects  
 113 finally collide and a large amount of energy is released  
 114 in the form of gravitational waves and radiation. For  
 115 a BNS merger such as GW170817, additional energy is  
 116 released as EMR: first as a gamma-ray burst (GRB)  
 117 and later in the form of a KN. A KN is the electromag-  
 118 netic (EM) transient powered by the radioactive decay  
 119 of heavy elements produced during the merger. Figure  
 120 3.0 shows an overview on a KN.



**Figure 3.** Overview of the process of a KN. Figure from Metzger (2019).

121 A GRB is one of the most energetic events in the uni-  
 122 verse, consisting of a jet of high-energy, in this case a  
 123 byproduct of the collision. There are two types of GRBs:  
 124 a short gamma ray burst (SGRB) and a long gamma  
 125 ray burst (LGRB). A SGRB is categorized as lasting  
 126 shorter than two seconds, and is usually associated with  
 127 KNe, while a LGRB is categorized to last longer than  
 128 two seconds, and is usually associated with Supernovae  
 129 (SNe). Recently, astronomers have questioned this cat-  
 130 egorization due to observations of a LGRB seeming to  
 131 have come from a KN. Figure 4.0 shows two overlapping  
 132 Gaussian curves which represent the SGRB and LGRB  
 133 categories accepted by astronomers today.



**Figure 4.**

Observed GRB from the BATSE instrument on the  
 Compton Gamma-ray Telescope<sup>a</sup>.

<sup>a</sup><https://imagine.gsfc.nasa.gov/science/objects/bursts1.html>

134 The first detection of EMR from the GW170817  
 135 merger was a burst of gamma-ray emission approxi-  
 136 mately 1.7 seconds after the inspiral ended (Metzger  
 137 2019). Other types of EMR could not be detected at  
 138 such early times. X-ray luminosity was detected after  
 139 about 2.3 days (Metzger 2019). There are many compo-  
 140 nents of a KN, such as the tidal and wind components  
 141 of the ejecta. Tidal ejecta results from the tidal forces  
 142 experienced by the neutron stars during the merger,  
 143 while wind ejecta is produced by the high-speed winds  
 144 that emanate from the merged object (Perego et al.  
 145 2021). KNe directly relate to the synthesis of heavy  
 146 elements. The rapid neutron-capture process, or r-  
 147 process, is the primary process by which heavy elements  
 148 beyond iron are synthesized in the universe (Perego  
 149 et al. 2021). During the r-process, heavy atomic nu-  
 150 clei are created through rapid neutron capture followed  
 151 by beta decays, synthesizing heavy elements such as  
 152 gold, platinum, and uranium (Perego et al. 2021). The  
 153 GW170817 merger was an example of direct evidence  
 154 of r-process nucleosynthesis. The KN associated with  
 155 this event, produced by the radioactive decay of heavy  
 156 elements synthesized in the r-process, displayed a multi-  
 157 component light curve, consisting of both red and blue  
 158 components, which are attributed to different physical  
 159 processes. The peak energy of the radiation can vary  
 160 depending on the composition of the ejecta, generating  
 161 either a red, blue, or mixed kilonova. (Metzger 2019).  
 162 Studying these light curve components will allow us to  
 163 understand more about the KN and r-process in each  
 164 particular merger (Metzger 2019).

#### 1.4. ZTF: Finding the optical counterpart

165  
 166 The Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF) is a time-domain  
 167 astronomy project mounted on the Palomar 48-inch tele-  
 168 scope that surveys the entire northern night-sky every  
 169 three nights. This telescope searches for transient events  
 170 such as SNe, active galactic nuclei (AGNs), and variable  
 171 stars. ZTF has also dedicated an extensive amount of  
 172 effort to finding the precise location of compact mergers,  
 173 looking through short GRB localizations (Ahumada  
 174 et al. 2022a), and through the follow up of GW events.  
 175 When a GW event is detected, LIGO releases an alert  
 176 stating the properties of the merger. Usually, the large  
 177 localization errors have prevented the community from  
 178 pinpointing GW events. However, the large field-of-view  
 179 (FOV) of ZTF has allowed for effective searches in the  
 180 past (Kasliwal et al. 2020). ZTF has a FOV of 47 square  
 181 degrees and an areal survey rate of 3750 square degrees  
 182 per hour<sup>3</sup>. These specifications make ZTF an essen-

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ztf.caltech.edu/>

183 tial piece of equipment for searching large portions of  
 184 the sky in short times; it is the only telescope of its  
 185 kind today. After ZTF has the coordinates of an event,  
 186 the data is passed along to larger telescopes such as the  
 187 Gemini or Keck observatories for deeper observations using  
 188 both spectroscopy and photometry<sup>4</sup>. By combining  
 189 the spectroscopic data from larger facilities, photometric  
 190 data from ZTF, and data from LIGO, physicists and  
 191 astronomers can get a more complete understanding of  
 192 Multi-Messenger Astronomy (MMA) events and their  
 193 properties.

### 194 1.5. Photometry vs. Spectroscopy

195 Photometry and spectroscopy are two of the most im-  
 196 portant techniques used by astronomers to study cele-  
 197 stial objects across the universe. More recently, these  
 198 techniques have been used for detecting and analyzing  
 199 BNS and NSBH mergers. Photometry involves measur-  
 200 ing the intensity of light from an astronomical object,  
 201 typically across a range of wavelengths, to obtain in-  
 202 formation about its brightness, color, and variability  
 203 (Abbott et al. 2017). This information can be used  
 204 to study a wide range of phenomena, from the orbits  
 205 of exoplanets around distant stars to the properties of  
 206 distant galaxies. Spectroscopy involves separating the  
 207 light from an astronomical object into its component  
 208 wavelengths to obtain a spectrum that can be used  
 209 to study the object’s composition, temperature, mo-  
 210 tion, and other physical properties (Abbott et al. 2017).  
 211 Spectroscopy can be used to identify the chemical ele-  
 212 ments present in stars and galaxies, measure their ve-  
 213 locities, and study the physical processes that are occur-  
 214 ring within them.

215 While both photometry and spectroscopy are vital to  
 216 furthering our understanding and analysis of GWs, they  
 217 both provide different types of information. Photometry  
 218 is useful for studying the overall brightness and variabil-  
 219 ity of an object, while spectroscopy provides detailed in-  
 220 formation about the object’s physical properties. Both  
 221 techniques are often used in conjunction with each other  
 222 to obtain a more complete understanding of celestial  
 223 bodies and complex astronomical events. These two  
 224 techniques are complementary, and they are essential  
 225 to furthering and advancing our understanding of BNS  
 226 and NSBH mergers and of the signatures of r-process  
 227 nucleosynthesis.

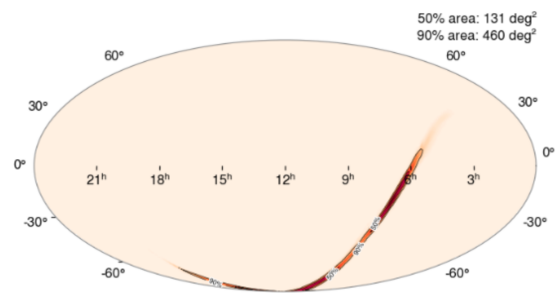
## 228 2. GW ALERTS DURING O4

### 229 2.1. S230627c

230

231 <sup>4</sup> <https://www.ztf.caltech.edu/>

232 During the first week of this project, both LIGO Han-  
 233 ford and Livingston detected an event called S230627c,  
 234 which provided a real-world situation to better under-  
 235 stand the MMA group and the process for analyzing  
 236 candidates and triggering ZTF. This event was initially  
 237 recorded as 49% NSBH and 48% BBH<sup>5</sup>. The MMA  
 238 group began to analyze the data from this event, mak-  
 239 ing decisions on how to proceed for further analysis.  
 240 There was a chance that this event could potentially  
 241 be a NSBH, so the group began discussing the incom-  
 242 ing data from the trigger. The area was well localized,  
 243 about 50% spanned only 20 square degrees, had a very  
 244 high significance, had a FAR of less than 1 per 100.04  
 245 years. Figure 5.0 shows the localization of S230627c.



246 **Figure 5.** Localization area of S230627c. Figure from<sup>a</sup>.

247 <sup>a</sup><https://fritz.science/>

248 There was only a small chance, about 11%, of it being  
 249 in the *massgap*. The *massgap* is the gap in mass be-  
 250 tween the heaviest NSs (about 2.5 solar masses) and the  
 251 lightest BHs (about 5 solar masses), where there have  
 252 not been many binary mergers found<sup>6</sup>. The lower part  
 253 of the localization was relatively near to the sun, so it  
 254 was below 30 degrees at twilight, close to an airmass (a  
 255 measure of the atmospheric air in the line of sight of the  
 256 observer) of about two. This event, after preliminary  
 257 observations, was a go for a full response from ZTF and  
 258 WINTER. ZTF was triggered and began searching for  
 259 candidates for the EM counterpart. The event was most  
 260 likely a BBH since the physical limit for a NS is heavier  
 261 than 2.2 solar masses, when it collapses gravitationally  
 262 and becomes a BH. However, it was so well localized  
 and had too good of a false alarm rate (FAR) to stop  
 searching. A lot of the analysis for BNS and NSBH  
 candidates is completed through Fritz. Fritz is an open  
 source code designed for time-domain astronomers to

263 <sup>5</sup> <https://gracedb.ligo.org/superevents/public/O4/>

264 <sup>6</sup> <https://www.caltech.edu/about/news/ligo-virgo-finds-mystery-object-mass-gap>



use for collaboration on a project<sup>7</sup>. ZTF observed the localization region for  $\sim 3$  hours, and candidates started to appear on Fritz for further scrutiny. The candidates needed to be evolving quickly and redshifting. Unfortunately, none of the candidates were very compelling, but the event was so convincing that ZTF observed the following night as well. The search ultimately covered 74.9 %, or 91.5 square degrees, of the reported localization region. Throughout this process, a log journal was kept to further review the steps of candidate analysis afterwards. The log took special note of certain terms or phrases used and commonly used platforms to further explore.

## 2.2. *S230808i*

For this detection, there was a good significance, but the localization area was very large. The MMA group began to discuss the properties of the event. Originally, there was debate about this event possibly being a BBH, but since the source classification was incomplete and the ZTF fields were visible right away from Palomar, the group decided to trigger ZTF. A few candidates started to appear after initial scanning from ZTF. Forced photometry was performed on the eight candidates. There was one intriguing candidate for which spectroscopy and photometry were requested. A GCN was requested for the one interesting candidate.

## 3. PIPELINE OBJECTIVES

This MMA project will be used to develop pipelines for spectroscopic and photometric data analysis. The current pipeline for Gemini was used to detect GWs in the GW170817 merger. Although this pipeline was beneficial for data analysis during that time frame, LIGO has undergone design upgrades, as mentioned previously. Therefore, astronomers are in need of a more sophisticated and novel data analysis pipeline to extract information from the large and complex datasets generated by instruments like LIGO and Gemini. The first task will be to create a pipeline that will be able to reproduce the spectral features of the KN associated with GW170817. The novel pipelines will be developed originally for Gemini, but will also be recreated for other infrared facilities. Additionally, the pipelines will have another part worked into their coding. While the previous pipelines were only able to utilize spectroscopic data, the novel pipelines will utilize photometric data as well. This addition will give astronomers more ways to analyze the data from LIGO detections.

Some of the instruments used for reducing the data using spectroscopic and photometric pipelines are the Las Cumbres Observatory (LCO), Gemini Observatory, and Southern Astrophysical Research Telescope (SOAR). LCO uses photometry with its Sinistro (1-meter), Spectral (2-meter) and MuSCAT3 (2-meter) cameras<sup>8</sup>. FLAMINGOS-2 is a near-infrared imaging spectrograph at Gemini-South, which utilizes photometry and spectroscopy to gather more in-depth data from merger events<sup>9</sup>. DRAGONS is a package used in conjunction with the Gemini Multi-Object Spectrograph (GMOS) to reduce data. This project will rely heavily on the DRAGONS tutorial to modify and adapt the proposed automated pipeline. The Southern Astrophysical Research Telescope (SOAR) uses both photometry and spectroscopy to produce high image quality at wavelengths from optical to near-infrared<sup>10</sup>. The Goodman spectrograph is an optical imitating spectrograph<sup>10</sup>. Both the FLAMINGOS-2 telescope from the Gemini Observatory and the SOAR telescope are both located on the same mountain. Documentation and data from these instruments will be gathered to formulate the pipeline which will be able to reproduce the data collected from GW170817.

Currently, there is a reduction pipeline provided at these observatories. This project will explore these pipelines and then adapt them using the new parameters for the specific program. This includes ensuring there is an automated pipeline that downloads raw data, calibrates it, performs image subtraction, robustly gets the photometry for each image, and uploads it to Fritz. This will be the case for the LCO imaging pipeline, especially with imaging subtraction and photometry. A plan will be created to build and test a near-infrared spectroscopic data reduction pipeline for the FLAMINGOS-2 Gemini Observatory Archive<sup>11</sup> to reproduce the features in the spectra shown in [Watson et al. \(2019\)](#). Finally, a Goodman optical spectroscopic pipeline utilizing a similar plan<sup>12</sup> will be created. For the spectroscopic image calibration of all the pipelines, darks, flat fields, arcs, and biases will be needed to process the spectra<sup>11</sup>.

When a GW event is detected by LIGO, ZTF is notified and begins scanning for candidates of the EM counterpart (the KN). This search takes time because of the

<sup>8</sup> <https://lco.global/observatory/instruments/>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.gemini.edu/instrumentation/flamingos-2>

<sup>10</sup> <https://noirlab.edu/public/programs/ctio/soar-telescope/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://gemini-iraf-flamingos-2-cookbook.readthedocs.io/en/latest/index.html>

<sup>12</sup> <https://soardocs.readthedocs.io/projects/goodman-pipeline/en/latest/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://fritz.science/about>

limited astronomy equipment in today’s society, which is deficient in both abundance and technological advancement for the tasks it is expected to execute. However, the search is time sensitive since KNe are incredibly fast fading. Compared to SNe and AGNs, KNe will fade optically in just a few days while SNe and AGNs may last a few weeks. Other than being fast-fading, the counterpart should be highly redshifted, meaning it is moving towards Earth at an astronomically fast pace. There are four main ways to analyze the KNe which allow for a more detailed look into the KN: optical photometry, infrared photometry, optical spectroscopy, and infrared spectroscopy. This project aims to gather data within all four categories to gain the most accurate representation of the KN. Optical photometry helps to analyze the candidates; by studying their brightness decay rate, candidates can be ruled out based on how fast-fading their counterpart is. The infrared photometry component of the KN is expected to last longer, so it will provide more detail than optical photometry. Optical spectroscopy will measure the temperature and redshift of the ejecta (Valeev et al. 2021). The temperature is directly related to the abundance of heavy elements. Assumptions about the KN can be made when certain elements are present in the spectrum. A KN with heavy elements will be hotter in the infrared. The more electrons that are present, the more light can be absorbed. Electrons only absorb a specific wavelength, and since heavier elements absorb more light in the optical ultraviolet spectrum, it cannot be seen by human observers, but it can be seen when it is re-emitted in the infrared. This is why an abundance of heavy elements is assumed when bright infrared emissions are detected. Infrared spectroscopy will compare the r-process nucleosynthesis between elements and how much of each element is being created. While spectroscopic classification is usually preferred overall to rule out transients, photometric classification gives their essential fading rate and color evolution (Ahumada et al. 2022b).

#### 4. METHODS

FLAMINGOS-2 is a near-infrared instrument mounted at the Gemini south telescope. In order to analyze the data taken with this instrument, the Gemini observatory has a data processing pipeline; there are tutorials on how to use this pipeline. The following steps are from the F2 Longslit Tutorial in the FLAMINGOS-2 guide<sup>13</sup>. The proper packages for the FLAMINGOS-2 pipeline were installed. Anaconda is a data science platform

which was used in conjunction with the python coding software. This platform was installed, and the data for the pipeline was retrieved. An observations log was created and the reduction and observation log python files were downloaded. The data and the files were all configured and placed in their corresponding folders. After a slight modification of plan due to the desire to focus more on optical photometry and spectroscopy instead of infrared spectroscopy, work with the DRAGONS pipeline began. DRAGONS, or the Data Reduction for Astronomy from Gemini Observatory North and South, is another pipeline used by the Gemini Observatory. Two of the main platforms utilized throughout this process were Visual Studio Code (VSC) and DRAGONS. The VSC software was used to reconstruct and then develop and refine the pipelines. DRAGONS provided the tools to reduce photometric and spectroscopic data<sup>14</sup>. Example One in the DRAGONS pipeline tutorial was recreated using the following steps on the online tutorials<sup>15</sup>. The Anaconda and DRAGONS packages were added to VSC. To install DRAGONS, the conda-forge and Gemini channel - where the packages needed are located - were added. A virtual environment with the name `dragons` was created. This environment was the location of the DRAGONS software, its dependencies, and Python 3.10, once they were installed. The `dragons` environment needed to be activated and the proper kernel needed to be selected each time the shell was opened. DRAGONS was configured and then tested to ensure the packages were all installed properly and could be accessed. The `dragonsrc` configuration file was located and opened with an editing software called `nano`. A browser was chosen to be used, and a path and name for the configurations database were created. The `astrodata` and the `gemini-instruments` packages were imported using the python interpreter. A function to reduce the data was defined with python; this function was called the Recipe. A test to ensure that the reduce function runs was carried out. In order to test the installation, data was downloaded from the DRAGONS tutorial section: Downloading tutorial datasets section<sup>14</sup>. The data set for Example One was downloaded for the installation test. After ensuring the DRAGONS environment was activated, the directory where the data files were was opened, and the installation was complete, the set up and calibration for Example One in the DRAGONS tutorial was finished.

<sup>14</sup> [https://dragons.readthedocs.io/projects/gmosls-drtutorial/en/stable/02\\_datasets.html](https://dragons.readthedocs.io/projects/gmosls-drtutorial/en/stable/02_datasets.html)

<sup>15</sup> <https://dragons.readthedocs.io/en/stable/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://gemini-iraf-flamingos-2-cookbook.readthedocs.io/en/latest/index.html>

449 There are two different ways to execute the DRAG-  
 450 ONS tutorial: through the terminal and through a pro-  
 451 gramming language. Although the execution process for  
 452 Example One - Longslit Dithered Point Source - Using  
 453 the “Reduce” class in DRAGONS was carried out sepa-  
 454 rately utilizing both methods, only the steps to the pro-  
 455 gramming language will be described here as to avoid  
 456 redundancy. All the work done for Example One was  
 457 performed in a Jupyter notebook. Jupyter notebook is  
 458 a interactive computing platform; the terminal and the  
 459 Python coding language were used in conjunction with  
 460 the Jupyter notebook in this project. After a Jupyter  
 461 notebook was created, the path to the downloaded sam-  
 462 ple data for Example One was opened, the necessary  
 463 libraries were imported, and the DRAGONS logger was  
 464 set up. A file lists for all the `.fits` files were created.  
 465 The biases were split into two lists depending on their  
 466 categorization: one list for the science observations and  
 467 one list for the spectrophotometric standard observa-  
 468 tion. Lists for the flats, the arcs, the spectrophotometric  
 469 standard star, and the science observations were created.  
 470 The bad pixel mask (BPM) calibration code was added  
 471 to the calibration database. The `Reduce` class was used  
 472 to create the master bias, the master flat field, the pro-  
 473 cessed arc, and the processed standard.

474 A 2D image and a 1D calibrated flux spectrum were  
 475 produced from Example One. Figure 6.0 shows the 2D  
 476 image produced from the pipeline; this image was dis-  
 477 played using DS9.

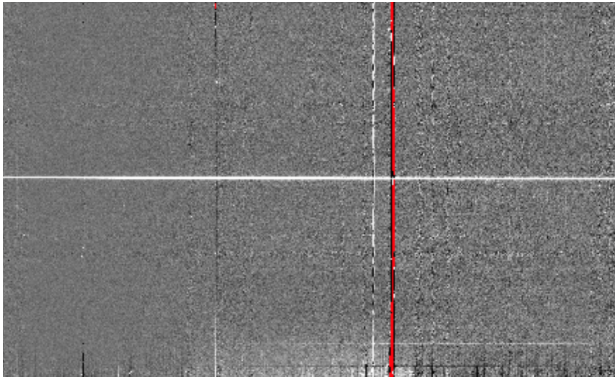


Figure 6. 2D image from Example One.

## 5. RESULTS

478  
 479 After completing the pipeline, a slice was taken from  
 480 the 2D spectrum using the DS9 software. Figure 7.0  
 481 shows the slice that was taken from the previously shown  
 482 spectrum.

483 The 1D spectrum data from Example One was opened  
 484 and displayed as a `numpy array`. The two columns of

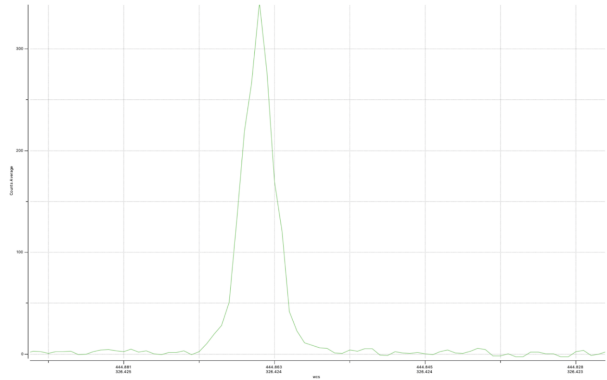


Figure 7. Slice of the spectrum from the object in Example One.

485 data were wavelength and flux. The two columns were  
 486 plotted as flux vs. wavelength; the flux data needed to  
 487 be better fitted to a different scale. Figure 8.0 shows the  
 488 initial plot for the flux vs. wavelength data.

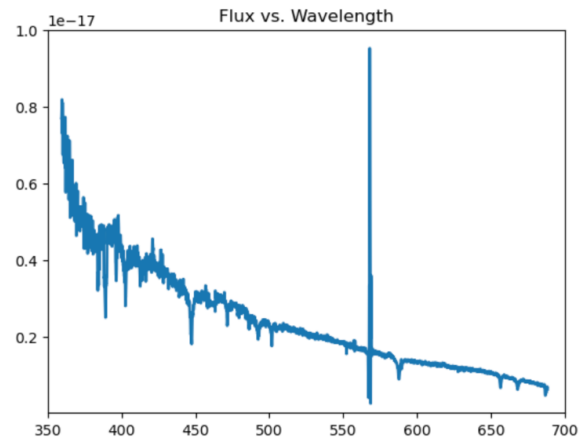
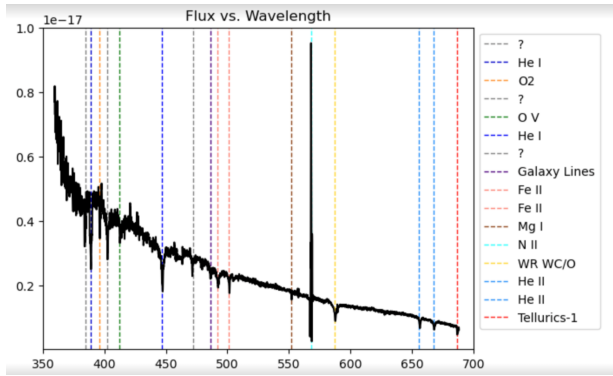


Figure 8. Calibrated plot of flux vs. wavelength.

489 After scaling this plot, spectroscopic data analysis was  
 490 utilized. Research was done on absorption lines at the  
 491 corresponding wavelengths and fitted to the spectrum.  
 492 Figure 9.0 shows the elements corresponding to the spec-  
 493 trum.

## 6. DISCUSSION

494  
 495 Before this project, I had never used Anaconda, VSC,  
 496 or the Jupyter notebook, so most of the first few weeks  
 497 have been learning the new software: what it does, how  
 498 to use it, what the shortcuts are, and how they will be  
 499 incorporated into my project. This was challenging. It  
 500 took up quite a bit of my time and felt like a slow, bor-  
 501 ing process, but I knew it would help me code so much  
 502 faster in the long run. Although I have already learned  
 503 so much in relation to these platforms, I feel that not



**Figure 9.** Elements corresponding to the spectrum.

504 coming in with these concepts as prior knowledge could

505 potentially be challenging. I may need to spend ex-  
 506 tra time throughout the summer brushing up on certain  
 507 concepts to help me along the way with my project. Al-  
 508 ready, by going through the DRAGONS tutorial, I have  
 509 found coding language that is technically simple, but I  
 510 have not known how to proceed because I am unfamiliar  
 511 with the language at this point.

512 There was a slight issue when testing the installation  
 513 of Anaconda and DRAGONS. I went back through the  
 514 installation tutorial sections and repeated all the steps,  
 515 but the same error message was displayed once again.  
 516 After conferring with my mentor, we concluded that  
 517 Miniconda, which was installed before the tutorial, was  
 518 interfering with the code. I needed to deactivate Mini-  
 519 conda so Anaconda could be the correct base. After this  
 520 switch, the code ran smoothly.

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