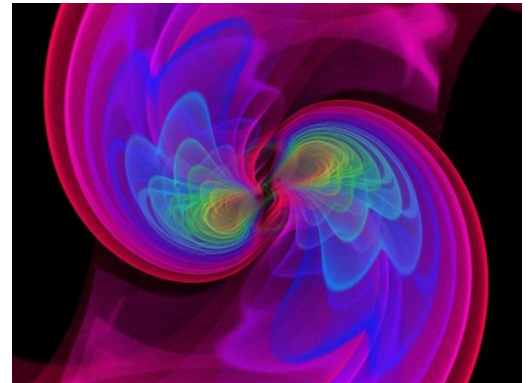


DID YOU KNOW?

Fun facts about science...

In February 2016, scientists announced that they had detected the deep-space rumblings of two massive black holes merging into a single, larger hole.

Einstein predicted the existence of such ripples, known officially as gravitational waves, in 1916, as part of his general theory of relativity. General relativity re-imagines the gravitational pull between heavy objects like Earth and the sun as a "warping" of space and time. When very heavy objects such as black holes are involved, the theory predicts that gravitational waves will emerge and ripple across the entire universe. – NPR.org



- Because black holes are (as their name implies) "black", they can't be seen with ordinary telescopes. Up until now, their existence has been inferred by looking at the stars and gas swirling around them.
- Physicists started recording data from the new Advanced LIGO detectors, a pair of ultra-precise observatories waiting for the slightest disturbance that could suggest the existence of gravitational waves. One outpost of the observatory is located in Louisiana and the other in Washington State – they're separated by thousands of miles in order to capture the ripples crossing Earth from deep space.
- The recent observation is ground-breaking, according to scientists. The two black holes were each roughly 30 times the mass of the sun. They merged some 1.3 billion light years from Earth, and the captured gravitational ripples were generated in the final moments before the black holes merged.