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## NON-SPECIALIST LECTURE: The gravitational wave event GW150914

Wednesday, 6 July 2016 14:00 (40 minutes)

**Abstract content &nbsp; (Max 300 words) <a href="http://events.saip.org.za/getFile.py/?target="\_blank">Formatting & Special chars</a>**

This talk reviews the LIGO observations of GW150914, and shows how this data leads to the interpretation that it represents the merger of two black holes each of mass about 30 Msun at a distance of about 400 Mpc. We also review the observation of a possible coincident gamma ray burst. The implications for astrophysics and fundamental physics are also discussed.

**Apply to be considered for a student &nbsp; award (Yes / No)?**

No

**Level for award (Hons, MSc, &nbsp; PhD, N/A)?**

N/A

**Would you like to submit a short paper for the Conference Proceedings (Yes / No)?**

Yes

**Please indicate whether this abstract may be published online (Yes / No)**

Yes

**Primary author:** Prof. BISHOP, Nigel (Rhodes University)

**Presenter:** Prof. BISHOP, Nigel (Rhodes University)

**Session Classification:** Astrophysics (1)

**Track Classification:** Track D1 - Astrophysics