

Gamma-ray bursts

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Gamma-ray bursts are the most powerful explosions in the Universe. They appear as brief bursts of gamma-rays followed by an afterglow at longer wavelengths. They involve a complex physics with a relativistic ejection by a new-born compact stellar mass source, and several phases of emission associated to internal dissipation in the ejecta and to the interaction of the ejecta with its environment. I will review the observations of these phenomena and discuss our current understanding of their physical origin.

*Frontiers of Fundamental Physics 14 - FFP14,
15-18 July 2014
Aix Marseille University (AMU) Saint-Charles Campus, Marseille*

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