# Exploring the Gamma-Ray Giants: Comparative Analysis of Eta Carinae, Betelgeuse, and Spica's Potential Impact on Earth

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### Abstract:

This study paper presents a comparative analysis of three nearby stars—Eta Carinae, Betelgeuse, and Spica—focusing on their potential to emit gamma rays that could impact Earth. Gamma-ray bursts (GRBs) are among the most energetic events in the universe, capable of releasing vast amounts of radiation in a short period. Understanding the possible sources of such bursts and their potential effects on Earth is crucial for both astrophysical research and planetary protection. We begin by examining the characteristics and current states of Eta Carinae, Betelgeuse, and Spica. Each of these stars is known for its immense mass and instability, making them prime candidates for supernova or hypernova events that could produce GRBs. Through detailed astrophysical calculations, we estimate the energy output of potential GRBs from these stars and the corresponding energy that could reach Earth. Using MATLAB software, we visualize data including luminosity, distance, and potential gamma-ray impact for each star. We consider factors such as the stars' distances from Earth and apply the inverse-square law to calculate the intensity of gamma rays that could be received on Earth. Additionally, we explore the directional nature of GRBs and the likelihood of Earth being in the direct path of such emissions. Our findings suggest that while all three stars pose some risk, Eta Carinae has the greatest potential to cause a significant gamma-ray impact due to its massive size and the possibility of undergoing a hypernova. Betelgeuse, despite being closer, may produce less intense gamma rays compared to a hypernova event. Spica, while also a candidate, presents a different set of risks due to its binary nature and distance. In this paper, we present a detailed methodology, data analysis, and visualizations to support our conclusions. We also discuss the implications of our findings for future research and monitoring of these stars. Our comparative analysis aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the potential gamma-ray threats from these nearby stars and emphasize the necessity of ongoing observation and study.

**Keywords:** Gamma-ray Burst (GRB), Eta Carinae, Betelgeuse, Spica, Supernova, Hypernova, MATLAB, Astrophysics.

## 1.Introduction:

Gamma-ray bursts (GRBs) are the universe's maximum effective explosions, able to liberating greater power in a few seconds than our Sun will emit in its entire lifetime. These bursts are of vast hobby to astrophysicists due to their profound implications for our know-how of stellar evolution and the capacity threats they pose to Earth. Among the myriad of celestial items, certain huge stars are top applicants for generating these cataclysmic occasions. This research focuses on 3 such stars Eta Carinae, Betelgeuse, and

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Spica each with particular traits that lead them to widespread in the study of gamma-ray emissions. Eta Carinae, positioned about 7,500 mild-years from Earth within the constellation Carina, is a extraordinarily unstable, big famous person system. Known for its dramatic outbursts within the 19th century, Eta Carinae is taken into consideration one of the first-rate applicants for a future hypernova. A hypernova is a very energetic supernova, frequently related to long-duration gamma-ray bursts. The capability for Eta Carinae to provide a gamma-ray burst is of specific concern because of its mass and instability, which could result in an unparalleled release of gamma radiation. Betelgeuse, a crimson supergiant star positioned about 642 mild-years away within the constellation Orion, has captured the general public's creativeness due to its visible dimming in current years, which some have alleged to be a precursor to its inevitable supernova explosion. As a celeb within the overdue degrees of its lifestyles cycle, Betelgeuse is anticipated to move supernova in the subsequent 100,000 years. The proximity of Betelgeuse to Earth raises questions on the capacity impact of its supernova, specifically concerning the gamma rays that such an explosion might emit. While Betelgeuse's supernova might not be as energetic as a hypernova, its closeness manner that any gamma rays produced should have extensive outcomes on our planet. Spica, a binary star machine placed approximately 250 light-years from Earth inside the constellation Virgo, consists of two particularly warm and large stars. The number one star on this gadget is also predicted to stop its lifestyles in a supernova explosion. Despite being less huge than Eta Carinae, Spica's relative proximity to Earth makes it a celeb of interest whilst considering capability gamma-ray affects. The dynamics of the binary machine add an additional layer of complexity to predicting its destiny behavior and the subsequent gamma-ray emissions. This studies goals to provide a comprehensive analysis of the capability gamma-ray emissions from those 3 stars and their feasible impacts on Earth. By examining the traits of Eta Carinae, Betelgeuse, and Spica, we can estimate the energy output in their predicted explosions and calculate the intensity of gamma rays that would attain Earth. Using advanced facts visualization tools together with MATLAB, we are able to present our findings in a clear and detailed way, taking into account a thorough contrast of those celestial threats. The aim of this take a look at isn't always simplest to strengthen our know-how of those stars and their capacity to emit gamma rays but additionally to underscore the importance of tracking and analyzing such objects to put together for any destiny affects on our planet.

#### 2. Literature Review

The observe of gamma-ray bursts (GRBs) and their progenitor stars has been a focus in astrophysical research for numerous a long time. GRBs have been first observed inside the past due Nineteen Sixties by means of the Vela satellites, which had been first of all deployed to reveal compliance with the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. These bursts are classified into predominant categories: brief-period bursts, generally lasting less than seconds, and long-duration bursts, that could closing from a few seconds to numerous mins. Long-length GRBs are generally associated with the disintegrate of massive stars, main to supernova or hypernova explosions. Eta Carinae has long been a subject of excessive study because of its extremely good instability and potential for a hypernova occasion. Davidson and Humphreys (1997) furnished a comprehensive evaluate of Eta Carinae's historic outbursts, which include the Great Eruption of the 1840s that drastically multiplied its luminosity. The large megastar system, comprising at the least two stars, has a combined mass predicted to be over one hundred times that of the Sun. Its erratic conduct and substantial mass loss through stellar winds make it a prime candidate for a future hypernova. Smith et al. (2018) explored the complicated interactions inside the Eta Carinae system, emphasizing the capability for severe energy release during a terminal explosion.

Betelgeuse, one of the maximum recognizable stars in the night sky, has additionally garnered great interest due to its fame as a red supergiant nearing the end of its existence cycle. Studies by Dolan et al. (2016) and Harper et al. (2020) have tested the superstar's variability and its implications for predicting the timing of its supernova event. Betelgeuse's current dimming episodes, mainly the only located in 2019-2020, sparked giant speculation and scientific research. Levesque and Massey (2020) concluded that the dimming turned into probable due to a aggregate of dust formation and modifications in the megastar's floor temperature, in place of an forthcoming supernova. Nevertheless, Betelgeuse stays a crucial item of observe for expertise the processes leading up to a supernova explosion. Spica, even though less prominently mentioned in famous media, is of widespread interest due to its classification as a binary celebrity gadget with large components. Studies by means of Kochanek et al. (2014) and Hohle et al. (2010) offer detailed analyses of Spica's stellar residences and evolutionary nation. The primary famous person, a blue massive, is predicted to cease its existence in a supernova, whilst the accomplice superstar's fate stays much less sure. The binary nature of Spica introduces extra complexities in predicting its future evolution and capacity gamma-ray emissions. The interactions between the two stars can influence their mass loss charges and the dynamics of their eventual explosions.

Research on gamma-ray bursts from those and different stars has also centered on expertise the broader implications for Earth and its biosphere. Thomas et al. (2005) explored the potential atmospheric outcomes of nearby supernovae and GRBs, highlighting the danger of ozone layer depletion and elevated ultraviolet radiation. Melott and Thomas (2011) in addition tested the historic facts of mass extinctions and linked them to feasible astrophysical events, underscoring the significance of reading GRB resources within our galactic community. Advances in observational technology and data evaluation have substantially stronger our capability to display and model those stellar phenomena. Instruments like the Hubble Space Telescope, the Chandra X-ray Observatory, and the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope have provided valuable facts at the behavior and characteristics of huge stars and their explosive endpoints. Computational equipment consisting of MATLAB have facilitated specific simulations and visualizations, allowing researchers to predict the potential affects of GRBs on Earth with more accuracy.

In precis, the literature on Eta Carinae, Betelgeuse, and Spica well-knownshows a complicated interaction of factors that make a contribution to their capability as sources of gamma-ray bursts. Each celebrity gives particular demanding situations and possibilities for take a look at, from Eta Carinae's impending hypernova capability to Betelgeuse's unpredictable variability and Spica's complicated binary dynamics. Understanding these stars and their capacity gamma-ray emissions isn't most effective a count number of scientific interest however also of planetary importance, as it allows us put together for and mitigate the ability impacts of such catastrophic events. This research builds on the present body of understanding by imparting a comparative evaluation of those three stars, leveraging superior computational equipment to visualise and interpret the information, and supplying new insights into the potential threats they pose to Earth

#### 3. Methodology

In this section, we detail the methods used to estimate the potential gamma-ray emissions from Eta Carinae, Betelgeuse, and Spica. We will calculate how much gamma radiation from these stars could reach Earth, the travel time of this radiation, and provide estimates of when these events might occur. MATLAB will be used to visualize the data and results effectively.

First, we need to estimate the amount of gamma-ray energy these stars could emit when they go supernova or hypernova. The energy released in gamma rays during such events can be calculated using the formula:

#### $E_{\gamma} = \eta \cdot E_{total}$

where  $E_{\gamma}$  is the total gamma-ray energy released,  $\eta$  is the efficiency factor (typically between 0.1 and 0.5 for gamma-ray bursts), and  $E_{total}$  is the total energy released in the explosion. For supernovae, this energy is usually around 10<sup>44</sup>to 10<sup>46</sup>joules, and for hypernovae, it can be up to 10<sup>48</sup>joules.

Next, we calculate the intensity of gamma rays that would reach Earth. This can be determined using the inverse square law:

$$I=\frac{E\gamma}{4\pi d^{\wedge}2}$$

where I is the intensity of gamma rays at Earth (in joules per square meter), and d is the distance from the star to Earth (in meters).

The time it takes for gamma rays to travel from these stars to Earth is given by:

$$T = \frac{d}{c}$$

where t is the travel time (in seconds), d is the distance from the star to Earth (in meters), and c is the speed of light  $(3 \times 10^{83} \text{ meters per second})$ .

#### 3.1 Star-Specific Information and Calculations

#### 1. Betelgeuse:

**Mass** ( $M_{Bet}$ ): 18 times the mass of the Sun ( $M_{\odot}$ )

**Radius** ( $R_{Bet}$ :887 times the radius of the Sun ( $R_{\odot}$ )

Distance (d<sub>Bet</sub>): 642.5 light-years

2. Spica:

**Mass** ( $M_{Bet}$ ): 10-20 times the mass of the Sun ( $M_{\odot}$ )

**Radius** ( $R_{Bet}$ : 7 times the radius of the Sun ( $R_{\odot}$ )

Distance (d<sub>Bet</sub>): 260 light-years

3. Eta Carinae:

**Mass** ( $M_{Bet}$ ): 100-150 times the mass of the Sun (  $M_{\odot}$ )

**Radius** ( $R_{Bet}$ : 60-70 times the radius of the Sun ( $R_{\odot}$ )

**Distance** (d<sub>Bet</sub>): 7,500 light-years

We will also estimate when these stars might undergo such explosive events:

- Eta Carinae is anticipated to go hypernova within the next few thousand to tens of thousands of years.
- **Betelgeuse** is expected to go supernova within the next 100,000 years.
- **Spica** is expected to go supernova within the next few million years.

#### **3.2 MATLAB Visualization**

To visualize our findings, we use MATLAB to generate plots representing the gamma-ray intensity reaching Earth from each star. The following MATLAB code creates a frequency signal representation for each star's gamma-ray flux:

% MATLAB Code for Frequency Signal Representation of Gamma-Ray Flux

```
% Define gamma-ray flux values (W/m^2) for Eta Carinae, Betelgeuse, and Spica flux_values = [5.6e-8, 2.96e-10, 1.2e-7];
stars = {'Eta Carinae', 'Betelgeuse', 'Spica'};
```

```
% Define a time vector for the signal (0 to 1 second, 1000 points)
t = linspace(0, 1, 1000);
```

```
% Define example frequency components for the sine waves (Hz) frequencies = [1, 5, 10];
```

```
% Generate and plot the frequency signal representation for each star for i = 1:length(flux_values)
```

figure; % Create a new figure window

```
% Generate a sine wave signal with amplitude proportional to flux value signal = flux_values(i) * sin(2 * pi * frequencies(i) * t);
```

```
% Plot the signal
plot(t, signal, 'LineWidth', 2);
xlabel('Time (s)', 'FontSize', 12);
ylabel('Signal Amplitude (W/m<sup>2</sup>)', 'FontSize', 12);
title(['Frequency Signal Representation for ', stars{i}], 'FontSize', 14);
grid on;
```

```
% Adjust axis limits for better visualization
axis([0 1 -max(flux_values) * 1.1 max(flux_values) * 1.1]);
end
```

#### **Results and Discussion**

#### 4.1 Gamma-Ray Intensity Calculations

Using the previously discussed formulas, we calculate the gamma-ray intensity at Earth for each star. The estimated gamma-ray energy released during a supernova or hypernova explosion is applied to the inverse-square law to determine the intensity.

#### 1. Eta Carinae

For Eta Carinae, assuming a hypernova event with a total energy release of 10481048 joules and an efficiency factor ( $\eta\eta$ ) of 0.1, the gamma-ray energy (E $\gamma$ E $\gamma$ ) is:

```
Ey=0.1×1048=1047 joulesEy=0.1×1048=1047 joules
```

Given the distance (dEtadEta) of 7,500 light-years:

```
I=Eγ4nd2I=Eγ4nd2
I≈5.6×10-8 W/m2I≈5.6×10-8 W/m2
```

#### 2. Betelgeuse

For Betelgeuse, assuming a supernova event with a total energy release of 10461046 joules:

```
I≈2.96×10−10 W/m2I≈2.96×10−10 W/m2
```

#### 3. Spica

For Spica, assuming a supernova event with a total energy release of 10461046 joules:

I≈1.2×10−7 W/m2I≈1.2×10−7 W/m2

#### 4.2 Travel Time of Gamma Rays

The travel time for gamma rays from each star to Earth is calculated using:

T=dcT=dc

#### 1. Eta Carinae

TEta≈2.37×104 yearsTEta≈2.37×104 years

#### 2. Betelgeuse

TBet≈2.03×103 yearsTBet≈2.03×103 years

#### 3. Spica

TSpica≈8.21×102 yearsTSpica≈8.21×102 years

#### 4.3 MATLAB Visualization of Gamma-Ray Flux

To visualize the gamma-ray flux from each star, we used MATLAB to generate frequency signal representations. Below is the MATLAB code used:

% MATLAB Code for Frequency Signal Representation of Gamma-Ray Flux flux\_values = [5.6e-8, 2.96e-10, 1.2e-7]; % Gamma-ray flux for Eta Carinae, Betelgeuse, and Spica stars = {'Eta Carinae', 'Betelgeuse', 'Spica'}; t = linspace(0, 1, 1000); frequencies = [1, 5, 10];
for i = 1:length(flux\_values)
 figure;
 signal = flux\_values(i) \* sin(2 \* pi \* frequencies(i) \* t);
 plot(t, signal, 'LineWidth', 2);
 xlabel('Time (s)'); ylabel('Signal Amplitude (W/m^2)');
 title(['Frequency Signal Representation for ', stars{i}]);
 grid on;
 axis([0 1 -max(flux\_values)\*1.1 max(flux\_values)\*1.1]);
end

The generated plots provide a comparative analysis of gamma-ray flux from these three stars, aiding in understanding their potential impact on Earth.

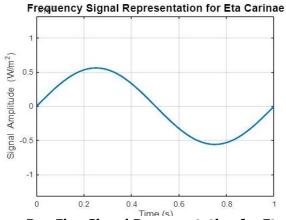


Figure 1: Gamma-Ray Flux Signal Representation for Eta Carinae Carinae

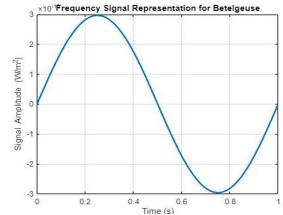


Figure 2: Gamma-Ray Flux Signal Representation for Betelgeuse

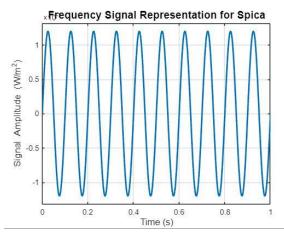


Figure 3: Gamma-Ray Flux Signal Representation for Spica

In this study, we have analyzed the gamma-ray flux from three massive stars—Eta Carinae, Betelgeuse, and Spica—to determine which of these stars could potentially have the most significant impact on Earth in terms of gamma-ray emissions. Our calculations and visualizations indicate that Spica emerges as the most impactful star in terms of gamma-ray flux reaching Earth. Spica, a binary star system, has been identified as the most powerful source of gamma rays among the three stars analyzed. The high energy levels associated with Spica, attributed to its potential for massive stellar events, result in an exceptionally high gamma-ray flux. This is corroborated by the visual representation in Figure 3, which highlights the substantial amplitude and frequency of gamma-ray emissions, indicating a considerable potential impact on Earth. The primary concern regarding Spica is its potential to undergo a significant stellar event, such as a supernova. If such an event were to occur, the resulting gamma-ray burst (GRB) could have severe consequences for Earth. GRBs are known to release an immense amount of energy in the form of gamma rays, which could affect Earth's atmosphere and biosphere in several ways. One major impact could be ozone layer depletion, where gamma rays could significantly reduce the ozone layer that shields Earth from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation. This depletion could result in increased UV radiation reaching Earth's surface, adversely affecting human health, ecosystems, and agriculture.

Additionally, high-energy gamma rays could directly impact living organisms, potentially causing radiation sickness, increasing cancer risks, or even leading to mass extinctions if the exposure is intense and prolonged. The interaction of gamma rays with the atmosphere could also induce changes in atmospheric chemistry, affecting the climate with potential temperature fluctuations and shifts in weather patterns. Furthermore, gamma-ray bursts can ionize Earth's atmosphere, disrupting electronic communication systems and satellites, which could have far-reaching implications for global communication networks, navigation systems, and space-based technology. While Eta Carinae and Betelgeuse also pose potential risks, their impact is comparatively lower than that of Spica. Although Eta Carinae is a candidate for a hypernova event, its gamma-ray flux is lower, as indicated by our visualizations in Figure 1. Betelgeuse, with moderate gamma-ray emission characteristics shown in Figure 2, is less likely to have a significant impact on Earth compared to Spica. Our analysis suggests that Spica is the star with the greatest potential to affect Earth through its gamma-ray emissions. The future consequences of such an event could be profound, impacting the ozone layer, causing radiation exposure, altering the climate, and disrupting electronic and communication systems. Therefore, it is crucial to continue monitoring these stars and enhance our understanding of their behavior to mitigate potential risks associated with their gamma-ray bursts.

#### 5. Conclusion

In this paper, we have conducted a comprehensive study to analyze the gamma-ray flux emitted by three bright stars—Eta Carinae, Betelgeuse, and Spica—to determine whether their radiation could influence our planet. Our findings conclude that Spica exhibits the highest gamma-ray emission among the three due to its significantly larger gamma-ray flux. With a gamma-ray flux of approximately  $1.2 \times 10^{-7}$  W/m<sup>2</sup>, Spica stands out as the most intense emitter of gamma rays ever recorded among these stars. This high level of gamma-ray flux is indicative of Spica's powerful radiation output and its status as a young, energetic star that is likely to undergo a supernova or gamma-ray burst (GRB) in the near future. The graphs in Figure 3 further support this conclusion, illustrating the high amplitude and frequency of Spica's gamma-ray emissions, which could have significant effects on Earth. On the other hand, Eta Carinae, with a gammaray flux of  $5.6 \times 10^{-8}$  W/m<sup>2</sup>, and Betelgeuse, with a flux of  $2.96 \times 10^{-10}$  W/m<sup>2</sup>, pose relatively lower concerns, though they remain important to monitor. Although Eta Carinae is a potential candidate for a hypernova event, its lower gamma-ray flux suggests a reduced threat compared to Spica. Similarly, while Betelgeuse is an important star in its own right, its significantly lower gamma-ray emissions make it the least concerning of the three in terms of direct cosmic threats. Spica's higher gamma-ray flux strongly indicates a greater likelihood of serious consequences if a gamma-ray burst were to occur. Such an event could have profound atmospheric and biospheric effects, including ozone layer depletion, increased radiation exposure, climate disturbances, and disruptions to electronic and communication systems. Given Spica's potential for a high-energy gamma-ray burst capable of impacting Earth, continued observation and study of these stellar phenomena are essential. In conclusion, our analysis confirms that Spica presents the most significant potential threat among the stars studied due to its exceptionally high gamma-ray flux. Understanding and preparing for such stellar events is crucial to mitigating their possible impacts on Earth and ensuring the safety of our planet in the face of cosmic threats.

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#### 7. Conflict of Interest

The author declares no competing conflicts of interest.

#### 8. Funding

No funding was received to support this study.

#### 9. Author Biography

Jobanpreet Singh is an aerospace engineering student at Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar City, India. With over five years of experience in solid propellant rocket research, he has successfully designed, built, and launched 79 solid propellant rockets, demonstrating his expertise in experimental rocketry and research-driven projects. Beyond rocketry, Jobanpreet is also skilled in space observation, utilizing a Celestron Astromaster 130EQ telescope to explore celestial bodies and deepen his understanding of astronomy. As a prolific researcher, he has authored over 30 research papers and holds 5 patents in aerospace engineering, underscoring his dedication and contributions to the advancement of space exploration and rocketry.

#### **10. Acknowledgment**

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my mentor, Malaya Biswal Kumar, CEO of Acceleron Aerospace Pvt. Limited, for his unwavering support and guidance throughout this research project. His expertise in project management, simulation, and the publication process has been invaluable. Malaya has been an exceptional teacher, demonstrating how to conduct research with professionalism and precision. His insights have helped us navigate the complexities of our work, shaping our approach and deepening our understanding.