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Neutron star masses

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Abstract. Neutron star masses can be inferred from observations of binary pulsar systems, particularly by the measurement of relativistic phenomena within these orbits. The observed distribution of masses can be used to infer or constrain the equation of state for nuclear matter and to study astrophysical processes such as supernovae and binary star evolution. In this talk, I will review our present understanding of the neutron star mass distribution with an emphasis on the observational data.