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On the Thermodynamics of Matter

Naman Kumar*

School of Basic Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar, India, 752050

Abstract

The holographic principle states that the information about the volume of space is stored on its boundary. Assuming this holds, we can explain the aspects of gravity. It strongly seems that "information" is a more fundamental entity than the structure of spacetime as used as basis in almost every gravity theory. In this paper, we present this connection between gravity and information. This naturally explains the four classical tests of gravity namely the gravitational redshift, the perihelion precession, the bending of light and the gravitational time delay. The spacetime need to be extended to $5D$ to explain gravity in this context.

Keywords

Thermodynamics of Black Hole, Thermodynamics and Gravity, Quantum Focusing Conjecture, Extra Dimension.

1 Introduction

Our first encounter with gravity came from the realization of Newton of gravity as an attractive force between every two objects in the universe, mathematically described by the universal law of gravitation. Despite being experienced by us in daily life, gravity remains the most mysterious force of all. Einstein realized gravity not as a fundamental force but as a very abstract phenomenon arising from the curvature of spacetime induced by matter and encoded in the famous Einstein's field equation. General Relativity(GR) as we call the Einstein's theory is a metric theory that beautifully explains every phenomenon observed at large scales to date. However, the theory is incompatible with another cornerstone and highly successful theory of Quantum Mechanics. Moreover being a metric theory, it admits certain unphysical solutions such as closed timelike curves and spacetime singularity. It also remains difficult to explain dark matter

*namankumar5954@gmail.com

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and dark energy within the framework of GR. The first link between thermodynamics and gravity came from the black hole physics where there is an apparent connection between horizon area and the entropy of the black hole. Hawking[1] first showed that the area of the horizon(A) of a black hole is a non-decreasing function of time.

$$\frac{dA}{dt} \geq 0 \tag{1}$$

Bekenstein[2, 3, 4] took this further and asserted the equivalence of the horizon area with the thermodynamic parameter, entropy(S) as

$$S = \gamma A \tag{2}$$

where γ is a constant. The claim got a robust description when Hawking[5] derived the temperature of the black hole, thus making the relation between the area and entropy clear. Later, in 1995, Jacobson[6] derived the Einstein's equation from the proportionality of entropy and horizon area together with the relation $dQ = TdS$ connecting heat, entropy, and temperature. There are also closely related follow up articles[7, 8, 9, 10, 11]. Another work relating thermodynamics and gravity are due to Padmanabhan[12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23] and his collaborators[24, 25, 26, 27, 28]. These results suggest that gravity may be explained as an emergent phenomenon and has a thermodynamic or entropic origin. Recently, Verlinde[29] proposed Newtonian gravity as a physical entropic force, caused by changes in the information associated with the positions of material bodies, although, this description of Newtonian gravity as a physical entropic force has been technically questioned too[30, 31, 32, 33]. Our goal here is different, we are making no connection with the background spacetime metric $g_{\mu\nu}$ and are thus not set to derive Einstein's gravity as Jacobson and Padmanabhan did because we do not think that Einstein's approach of describing gravity as background spacetime curvature is the only and ultimate reality. We are also not justifying or falsifying the claim of Verlinde of Newtonian gravity as a physical entropic force. Since we are not using the Einstein's approach of gravity as spacetime curvature, we explicitly show then, how can we explain the gravitational redshift, the modified equation of motion for both massive and massless particles and the accelerated expansion of the universe. This way of describing gravity as a non-metric theory naturally does away with the inherent unphysical problems of a metric theory such as closed timelike curves and spacetime singularity. Keeping these things in mind, we begin our discussion by understanding this new connection between gravity and "information" in the system. In section 3 we explain how the thermodynamic nature of our system changes the total energy and this leads to the extension of the spacetime to $5D$. In section 4 we find the solution for a point mass in our theory. In section 5 we review the Quantum Focusing Conjecture(QFC)[34] which conjectures that the quantum expansion Θ, where Θ is given by

$$\Theta = \theta + \frac{4G\hbar}{\mathcal{A}} S'_{out} \tag{3}$$

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(θ is the classical expansion and $\mathcal{A}$ is the width of null congruence along its generator), cannot increase along any congruence, which is valid for quantum states too

$$\frac{d\Theta}{d\lambda} \leq 0 \tag{4}$$

where λ is an affine parameter. We conclude the paper by showing using the QFC how the second derivative of the radius of a null boundary which respects the null energy condition(NEC) cannot decrease

$$\ddot{R}(t) \geq 0 \tag{5}$$

This can be applied to a black hole's event horizon and we can get an additional constraint other than the Hawking area theorem.

2 Some Terminology

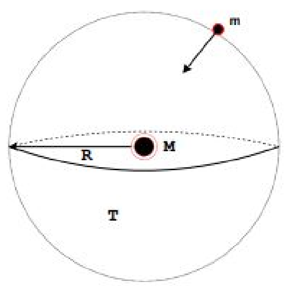

Figure 1: Our system consists of a source mass M and a "boundary" which is a data storing surface such as a holographic screen. T is the temperature of the bounding surface arising from the evenly distribution of the total energy E of the mass m as N bits of information as it approaches the holographic boundary.

Consider the system consisting of a source mass M and a boundary. The "boundary" here is a data storing surface such as a holographic screen. The Bekenstein bound[35], gives the bound on entropy associated with a mass M as[1]

$$S \leq \frac{2\pi RM}{\hbar} \tag{6}$$

where R is the size of the system and $\hbar$ is the reduced Planck's constant. The "disorder capacity" of a mass M is defined as the maximum entropy associated with it as

$$C_D = \frac{2\pi RM}{\hbar} \tag{7}$$

[1]In the rest of the paper we set $G = c = k_B = 1$

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The "information capacity" C_I is defined as the maximum entropy of the system. This entropy is assumed to follow the holographic principle[36, 37] such that the information about the volume of space is stored on the boundary. Thus we assume that the total degrees of freedom is given by

$$N = \frac{A}{l_p^2} \tag{8}$$

where A is the surface area of the boundary and l_p is the Planck length. The holographic principle has strong pieces of evidence from the AdS/CFT correspondence[38] and black hole physics[5, 3]. Thus,

$$C_I = N = \frac{A}{l_p^2} \tag{9}$$

The "disorder" D is defined by[2]

$$D = \frac{C_D}{C_I} \tag{10}$$

The temperature T of the boundary is found by assuming that the total energy of the object is stored on the boundary as evenly bits of information N as it comes near the boundary thus we can use the equipartition rule of thermodynamics

$$p^0 = \frac{1}{2}NT \tag{11}$$

where p^0 is the energy of the object near the boundary.

3 Effect on Total Energy

Due to the thermodynamic nature of our system, the total energy changes by the internal energy(U) and the fluctuation energy as we show now. The internal energy is given by

$$U = TS \tag{12}$$

where T is the temperature of the boundary and S is given by C_D. To find the degree of fluctuation in our system we expand the disorder D about its equilibrium position x_0^μ

$$D = D_0 + \left.\frac{\partial D}{\partial x^\mu}\right|_0 dx^\mu + \frac{1}{2}\left.\frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial x^\mu \partial x^\nu}\right|_0 dx^\mu dx^\nu + ... \tag{13}$$

Since x_0^μ is the equilibrium point for D, we have

$$\left.\frac{\partial D}{\partial x^\mu}\right|_0 = 0 \tag{14}$$

[2]see [39]

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Thus, in second order we have:

$$\Delta D = D - D_0 = \frac{1}{2}\frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial x^\mu \partial x^\nu}\bigg|_0 dx^\mu dx^\nu \tag{15}$$

The hessian $h_{\mu\nu}$ which captures the degree of "fluctuation" in our thermodynamic system is given as

$$h_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu \partial_\nu D \tag{16}$$

Another important dimensionless quantity(which can be used to define the "length" of fluctuation) is defined as

$$\tilde{h}_{\mu\nu} = \frac{A}{\pi} h_{\mu\nu} \tag{17}$$

where A is the surface area of the boundary. dl^2 is the length squared of fluctuation given by

$$dl^2 = \frac{1}{2}\tilde{h}_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu \tag{18}$$

We thus define the fluctuation energy as

$$\left(\frac{dl}{d\tau}\right)^2 = \frac{1}{2}\tilde{h}_{\mu\nu} d\dot{x}^\mu d\dot{x}^\nu \tag{19}$$

This thermodynamic expansion of the total energy comes at the expense of extending the $4D$ spacetime to $5D$ spacetime such that the non-zero metric elements are given by

$$g_{00} = 1, g_{11} = g_{22} = g_{33} = g_{04} = g_{40} = -1 \tag{20}$$

The fifth element being defined as

$$p^4 = U + \frac{dl}{d\tau} \tag{21}$$

4 Static Mass and Spherically Symmetric Solution

The total degrees of freedom on the boundary is

$$N = \frac{A}{l_p^2} = \frac{4\pi r^2}{l_p^2} \tag{22}$$

Thus

$$U = \frac{Mp^0}{r} \tag{23}$$

for $\tilde{h}_{\mu\nu}$, only 11 component survives. Thus

$$\tilde{h}_{11} = \frac{4M}{r} \tag{24}$$

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Hence the fluctuation energy in our thermodynamic system is

$$\left(\frac{dl}{d\tau}\right)^2 = \frac{2M}{r}\dot{r}^2 \tag{25}$$

Thus

$$\left(\frac{dl}{d\tau}\right) = \sqrt{\frac{2M}{r}}\dot{r} \tag{26}$$

So we get

$$dx^4 = \frac{M}{r}dt + \sqrt{\frac{2M}{r}}dr \tag{27}$$

The spacetime interval is given as

$$ds^2 = g_{\mu\nu}dx^\mu dx^\nu \tag{28}$$

where $g_{\mu\nu}$ is the fixed $5D$ background spacetime. Hence in the spherical coordinates we get the spacetime interval as

$$ds^2 = dt^2 - dr^2 - r^2(d\theta^2 + sin^2\theta\phi^2) - \frac{2M}{r}dt^2 - 2\sqrt{\frac{2M}{r}}dtdr \tag{29}$$

Eq.(29) is the Gullstrand-Painleve metric and a coordinate transformation converts it to the well-known Schwarzschild metric given as

$$ds^2 = \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right)dt^2 - \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r}\right)^{-1}dr^2 - r^2(d\theta^2 + sin^2\theta d\phi^2) \tag{30}$$

5 Quantum Focusing Conjecture

Using the Quantum Focusing Conjecture(QFC)[34], we can show that the second derivative of the radius of a null boundary which respects the null energy condition(NEC) cannot is non-negative. In this section we first review the formulation of QFC.

5.1 Generalised Entropy for Cauchy-splitting surfaces

Generalised entropy was originally defined in [40] in asymptotically flat space as the area A of all black hole horizons, plus the entropy of matter systems outside the black holes:

$$S_{gen} = S_{out} + \frac{A}{4G\hbar} + counterterms \tag{31}$$

A rigorous definition of S_{out} can be given as the von Neumann entropy of the quantum state of the exterior of the horizon:

$$S_{out} = -tr\rho_{out}ln\rho_{out} \tag{32}$$

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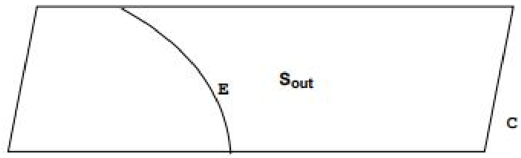

Figure 2: A Cauchy surface C is divided into two parts by a surface E. S_{out} is defined as entropy restricted to one side of splitting surface E

The GSL was introduced to keep the second law of thermodynamics intact when matter entropy is lost in a black hole. Bekenstein conjectured that GSL [40] survives: the area increase of the black hole will compensate for the lost matter entropy, so that the generalized entropy will not decrease. The notion of generalised entropy can be extended beyond the context of causal horizons [34]. Let σ be a spacelike codimension-2 surface that splits a Cauchy surface Σ into two portions. By picking any one of the two sides of σ arbitrarily, we can define an entropy restricted to one side of σ as S_{out}.

5.2 Quantum Focusing Conjecture

It conjectures [34] that the quantum expansion Θ, where Θ is given by:

$$\Theta = \theta + \frac{4G\hbar}{\mathcal{A}} S'_{out} \tag{33}$$

(θ is the classical expansion and $\mathcal{A}$ is the width of null congruence along its generator), cannot increase along any congruence, which is valid for quantum states too:

$$\frac{d\Theta}{d\lambda} \leq 0 \tag{34}$$

where λ is an affine parameter. The evolution of the expansion θ along congruence is determined by the Raychaudhuri equation:

$$\frac{d\theta}{d\lambda} = -\frac{\theta^2}{2} - \sigma_{ab}\sigma^{ab} - R_{ab}k^a k^b : \tag{35}$$

where R_{ab} is the Ricci tensor, σ_{ab} is the shear and k^a is the (null) tangent vector to the congruence. This gives QFC as:

$$0 \geq \Theta' = \theta' + \frac{4G\hbar}{\mathcal{A}}(S''_{out} - S'_{out}\theta) = -\frac{1}{2}\theta^2 - \zeta^2 - 8\pi G\langle T_{kk}\rangle + \frac{4G\hbar}{\mathcal{A}}(S''_{out} - S'_{out}\theta) \tag{36}$$

ζ is shear. The special choice of congruence for $\theta = \zeta = 0$, gives the Quantum Null Energy Condition (QNEC):

$$\langle T_{kk}\rangle \geq \frac{\hbar}{2\pi\mathcal{A}} S''_{out} \tag{37}$$

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The entropy S_{out} which refers to the entropy on a spacelike Cauchy surface can be alternatively seen as the entropy of the state restricted to the part of null surface N [34]. The stress tensor T_{ab} and entanglement entropy S_{out} is related to relative entropy $S(\rho||\rho_o)$ on a null surface by[34]

$$\frac{2\pi\mathcal{A}}{\hbar}T_{kk} - S''_{out} = S''(\rho||\rho_o) \tag{38}$$

where $T_{kk} = T_{ab}k^a k^b$, k^a is a null vector, i.e, it satisfies $g_{\mu\nu}k^\mu k^\nu = 0$. ρ is an arbitrary state and ρ_o is the vacuum state.

6 Accelerated Expansion of a Null Surface

Let a null surface N enclose a region of space which respects the null energy condition(NEC) given by

$$T_{kk} \geq 0 \tag{39}$$

Eq. (38) holds for this surface. Assuming N to be spherical, let at an initial time its radius be R. On applying NEC, Eq. (38) becomes an inequality and we get,

$$S''(\rho||\rho_o) \geq -S''_{out} \tag{40}$$

The relationship between relative entropy and Bekenstein bound is given by [41]

$$S(\rho||\rho_o) = K_v - S_v \tag{41}$$

where K_v is localized energy and $S_v \equiv S_{out} - S^{(0)}_{out}$ is a localized entropy. Here $S^{(0)}_{out}$ is the vacuum entropy. Eq. (40) can be written explicitly in the form

$$\frac{d^2S(\rho||\rho_o)}{d\lambda^2} \geq -\frac{d^2S_{out}}{d\lambda^2} \tag{42}$$

where λ is an affine parameter. Thus, we can write

$$\frac{d^2K_v}{d\lambda^2} - \frac{d^2S_{out}}{d\lambda^2} + \frac{d^2S^{(0)}_{out}}{d\lambda^2} \geq -\frac{d^2S_{out}}{d\lambda^2} \tag{43}$$

Since the vacuum entropy $S^{(0)}_{out}$ is independent of affine parameter λ it gives:

$$\frac{d^2S^{(0)}_{out}}{d\lambda^2} = 0 \tag{44}$$

, thus from Eq. (43), we get

$$\frac{d^2K_v}{d\lambda^2} \geq 0 \tag{45}$$

Now we equate the classical expression for K_v. Using $K_v \equiv bER$ [41], where b is a constant and E is the total energy of the system, we get

$$\frac{d^2bER}{d\lambda^2} \geq 0 \tag{46}$$

and since the total energy E of the system is constant, thus choosing the affine parameter λ as time, we finally get

$$\ddot{R} \geq 0 \tag{47}$$

Thus the second derivative of the radius of a null boundary which respects the NEC cannot decrease. Applying this to a black hole's event horizon we get an additional constraint than the previously known Hawking area theorem.

$$\frac{dA}{dt} \geq 0 \tag{48}$$

and

$$\frac{d^2R}{dt^2} \geq 0 \tag{49}$$

where R is the radius and A is the surface area of the boundary.

7 Conclusion

This approach of describing gravity as information leads to a very important question that whether or not gravity is a fundamental force as popularly seen. We think the way gravity affects time strongly suggests that gravity can not be a force in the usual sense. Of course, we have to make an additional assumption that the degrees of freedom follows the holographic principle and scales as the area rather than the volume of space but this assumption is very robust in itself looking at black hole physics and gauge/gravity duality. The other important result we showed is that, if we assume a null surface which encloses matter that respects the NEC then the second derivative of its radius is non-negative. This can be applied to a black hole's event horizon.

Conflict of Interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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