Black holes and quantum information



Institute for Advanced Study



Carlos Wagner and Marcela Karena, Festschrift. Chicago, 2023







Salón de Actos → Aulas → CALL CONTRACTOR







I first heard from Carlos and Marcela from



Wener Schad



Now to the talk...

We will discuss recent progress on the black hole information problem

References

Review: Almheiri, Hartman, JM, Shaghoulian, Tajdini (this contains a more general list of references than this talk)

Two important papers in 2019:

Penington Almheiri, Engelhardt, Marolf, Maxfield ...many previous and follow up papers...

Another very interesting Development that I will not review

Saad, Shenker, Stanford

Quantum information

$I = S = -Tr[\rho \log \rho]$

Is quantified by the Von Neuman entropy.

 $\rho = \text{density matrix of the quantum system.}$

Quantum information

$I = S = -Tr[\rho \log \rho]$

Does not change under unitary time evolution.

A tale of two entropies

Two notions of entropy

 Fine grained entropy or von Neuman entropy. Remains constant under unitary time evolution. (sometimes called ``entanglement'' entropy)

$$S = -Tr[\rho \log \rho]$$



 Coarse grained entropy = thermodynamic entropy, or Boltzmann entropy. Obeys 2nd law. Arises from ``sloppiness"

It is subtle to define it precisely. Here we are only mentioning to distinguish it from the star of our show.

In thermal equilibrium they are equal.

But we could be out of thermal equilibrium.

The difference in an example

Two kinds of entropy



Coarse grained, thermodynamic or Boltzmann entropy:
$$S_{Thermodynamic} > S_{in}$$

Black holes

Review an influential idea about black holes

Black holes as quantum systems

"Central dogma=central hypothesis"

- A black hole seen from the outside can be described as a quantum system with S degrees of freedom (qubits). S = Area/4 (I_p =1)
- It evolves according to unitary evolution, seen from outside.



... in other words

• If one includes $A/4G_N$ "mysterious" qubits, then the black hole can be described as an ordinary quantum system.



Is it true ?

Evidence in favor

1) Entropy counting

Special black holes, in special theories (supersymmetric) can be counted precisely using strings/D-branes \rightarrow reproduce the Area formula. (+ also corrections to this formula)

Strominger Vafa

using results by

J. Polchinski

...

Sen

•••

2) AdS/CFT...



Black hole in a box. Evolving unitarity.

Hot fluid made out of very strongly interacting particles.

Gubser, Klebanov, Polyakov

but

Hawking 1976 :

This can't possibly be true!

Geometry of an evaporating black hole made from collapse



The radiation is entangled with partners of radiation.

Since we do not measure the interior we get a large entropy for the radiation.

A pure state seems to go a mixed state.

The skeptic's view:



One universe splits of a ``teenage universe'' (big baby universe)

The state is pure if you include both universes, but not if you look only at the original universe.

A better statement of the problem

The Hawking curve vs. the Page curve

Compute the fine grained entropy of the radiation as it comes out of the black hole (formed by a pure state)



This problem involves von Neuman or fine grained entropy

New formulas for computing the entropy of black holes

First review old formulas

Bekenstein Hawking entropy

• Use first law:

$$dS = \frac{dE}{T} = \frac{dM}{T} , \qquad r_s = G_N M/c^2$$

$$S = \frac{\text{Area}}{4G_N} = \frac{\text{Area}}{4l_p^2} = \frac{4\pi r_s^2}{4l_p^2}$$

Geometry of a Black Hole made from collapse



Oppenheimer Snyder 1939
Horizon Area law

Area law: The area of a black hole horizon always increases. $\rightarrow 2^{nd}$ law of thermodynamics Hawking



Starts with small area and it grows to larger area

Generalized entropy



$$S = \frac{\operatorname{Area}_H}{4G_N} + S_{\mathrm{matter}}$$

Bekenstein 70's

Entropy of quantum fields



Obeys the 2nd Law

Wall 2010

The horizon area computes thermodynamic entropy

Can we compute the fine grained entropy ?

There is another gravitational entropy formula !

Fine grained gravitational entropy

Ryu-Takayanagi 2006 Hubeny, Rangamani, Takayanagi 2007 Faulkner, Lewkowycz, JM 2013 Engelhardt, Wall 2014

$$S = \min_{X} \left\{ \text{ext}_{X} \left[\frac{\text{Area}(\mathbf{X})}{4G_{N}} + S_{\text{semi-cl}}(\Sigma) \right] \right\}$$

The final surface is called minimal quantum extremal surface.



We are allowed to take the surface to the inside. It depends on the geometry of the interior

We will discuss its derivation later

For now we will just use it

We should be surprised by the claim that there is a formula for the <u>fine-</u> <u>grained</u> entropy

Examples

Full Schwarzschild solution = Two entangled black holes



Vanishing surface



S = Entropy of star , which is zero if it was in a pure state.

In this case $S_{vN} \ll S_{Boltzman}$

A feature arise when the black hole has been evaporating for a long time

New quantum extremal surface

Penington Almheiri, Engelhardt, Marolf, Maxfield, 2019

First appears about a scrambling time ($r_s \log S$) after the black hole forms.





Its entropy is close to the area of the horizon at the time.

Two quantum extremal surfaces



Penington Almheiri, Engelhardt, Marolf, Maxfield

Choose the minimal one



Penington Almheiri, Engelhardt, Marolf, Maxfield

...we get the Page curve for the black hole

but

we really wanted the Page curve for the radiation!

• The radiation lives in a region where quantum gravity effects could be very small. (It could be collected into a far away quantum computer).

 Since we obtained the state using gravity → we should apply the gravitational fine-grained entropy formula!

Penington; Almheiri, Mahajan, JM, Zhao

The "Island" formula



We should view it as just a special case of the general gravitational fine-grained entropy formula

- If the initial matter state is pure, then the quantum extremal surfaces are the same as the ones we discussed before.
- Therefore we get the Page curve for radiation.



The skeptic's complaint

- "This is just an accounting trick!"
- I have always said: "If you include the black hole interior, then the state is pure. The information problem arises because you do not have access to the interior!"



Gravity's accounting ``trick'' \rightarrow ``oracle''

• It can be derived from the gravitational path integral. (Deriving the gravitational fine grained entropy formula)

 Oracle: It gives us the true fine-grained entropy of the <u>exact</u> state, but using only the semiclassical state.

Deriving the fine grained entropy formula

 It is conceptually similar to the derivation of the black hole entropy using the Euclidean black hole.

Lewkowycz, JM ; Faulkner, Lewkowycz, JM; Dong, Lewkowycz, Rangamani; Dong, Lewkowycz

• We can do it without knowing the detailed microstates.

So far, we only talked about entropy.

What is this telling us about the interior?

How do we describe the interior?

- The central dogma involves degrees of freedom that describe the black hole from the outside.
- What part of the interior do these degrees of freedom describe?
 - 1) All of the interior?
 - 2) None of the interior?
 - 3) Part of the interior? Which part?

Region described by the black hole degrees of freedom

Region that appears in the computation of the entropy.



Czech, Karczmarek, Nogueira, Van Raamsdonk, Wall, Headrick, Hubeny, Lawrence, Rangamani, Almheiri, Dong, Harlow, Jafferis, Lewkowycz, J.M., Suh, Wall, Faulkner....

Examples

Entanglement wedge of the black hole in green. (black hole = quantum degrees of freedom describe the black hole from the outside)



Entanglement wedge of radiation in blue. (At late times, it includes part of the black hole interior)

Describing the interior

Part of the interior is described by the black hole degrees of freedom and another part of the interior to the radiation



- By performing (a very complicated) quantum operation on the radiation → we can extract information from the interior.
- We do not have a clear Lorentzian picture of how that happens.

Gao Jafferis Wall Petz map: Almheiri, Dong, Harlow; Cotler, Hayden, Penington, Salton, Swingle, Walter; Chen, Penington, Salton; Penington, Stanford, Shenker, Yang

Jafferis, Lewkowycz, JM, Suh; Almheiri, Anous, Lewkowycz;..., Y. Chen

Conclusions

- We reviewed the gravitational fine-grained entropy formula.
- We applied it to the computation of the entropy of radiation and obtained results consistent with unitarity.
- At late times, most of the interior is part of the radiation. It is not part of the ``black hole degrees of freedom''.

What was Hawking's mistake?

• Not to use the fine-grained entropy formula.

(It was not known at the time)

- A lot of what we discussed was derived by thinking about aspects of AdS/CFT, which itself involves string theory.
- But you only need gravity as an effective theory to apply these formulas.

There is an amazingly deep connection between gravity and quantum mechanics!

Is the information puzzle solved?

- One aspect: computing the entropy, <u>yes.</u>
- Another aspect: Understanding what the state is, <u>no</u>.
- We can compute the entropy of the radiation but not its state (at least with the present understanding).
- As with black hole entropy, it is an accounting ``oracle''. The explicit gravitational representation of the states is still mysterious. But the semiclassical solution is representing some aspects of the state.

Future

- What further lessons is this teaching us about the interior? The singularity ?
- Implications for cosmology ?



Extra slides
Euclidean black hole



Fix the temperature far away, gravity chooses the geometry dynamically.

Euclidean black hole



$$S = (1 - n\partial_n) \log \operatorname{Tr}[\tilde{\rho}^n]|_{n=1} = (1 - n\partial_n) \log Z_n|_{n=1}$$

Computes the entropy if we can only compute the traces, but the actual density matrix itself

Other states prepared by a path integral.



$$S = (1 - n\partial_n) \operatorname{Tr}[\tilde{\rho}^n]|_{n=1} = (1 - n\partial_n) \log Z_n|_{n=1}$$

 $S = \min \left\{ \exp \left[\frac{\operatorname{Area}(\mathbf{X})}{4G_N} + S_{\operatorname{semi-cl}}(\Sigma) \right] \right\} \text{ = fine grained entropy formula}$

• In the same way that the Euclidean black hole gives us the entropy, this replica trick gives us the gravitational fine-grained entropy formula.

- If the state is prepared by a Euclidean path integral, and it has dynamical gravity only in some regions, then we should allow various topologies in that region.
- Interiors connected by ``replica wormholes''
 → island formula.

Penington, Shenker, Stanford, Yang Almheiri, Hartman, JM, Shaghoulian, Tajdini

Replica wormholes: n=2



Solution that gives Hawking's result



Replica wormhole, giving the Page answer when it dominates at late times.

- Tr[p̃ⁿ] is given by these other non-trivial geometries.
- But the von Neuman entropy is given by a computation in the original semiclassical geometry → the fine grained entropy formula that we have seen above

Full Schwarzschild solution



``Bags of Gold"

Initial slice:



Wheeler



Evolves to a black hole as seen from the outside and a black hole in a closed universe.

Can have arbitrarily large amount of entropy ``inside''

Counterexample to the statement that the Area entropy counts the entropy "inside" or the entropy of the ``interior''. It is only a statement about the black hole as seen from the outside !

No statement has been made about the inside (yet).

Full Schwarzschild solution as a wormhole



Wormholes and entangled states





Gets smoothed out by considering the sum over non-replica symmetric geometries Penington, Shenker, Stanford, Yang; Dong, H. Wang; Marolf, S. Wang, Z. Wang

``Bags of Gold"

If there is a lot of entropy inside → the entanglement wedge of the black hole ends near the neck Wall



Bag of gold vs old black hole



The geometry and entropy on the orange slice is somewhat similar to the bag of gold.

Now the answer:

Entanglement wedge reconstruction hypothesis

- The quantum system describes everything that is included in its entanglement wedge.
- We can recover the state of a (probe) qubit inside the entanglement wedge.
- Recovery is state dependent (subspace dependent) and similar to quantum error correction.

Czech, Karczmarek, Nogueira, Van Raamsdonk, Wall, Headrick, Hubeny, Lawrence, Rangamani, Almheiri, Dong, Harlow, Jafferis, Lewkowycz, J.M., Suh, Wall, Faulkner....