# Quantum Mechanics and the Black Hole Horizon 

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9th Aegean summer school: Einstein's theory of gravity and its modifications

## Space-time, gravity and locality



String theory, AdS/CFT: space-time and gravity emergent
What are the fundamental principles?
Role of entanglement and quantum information
Space-time behind the horizon
Quantum black holes: statistical mechanics, information and limitations of locality

## Motivations



Black hole information paradox
What happens when crossing the horizon?
How can we describe the black hole interior in AdS/CFT?

## Motivations

I will describe a proposal (developed with S. Raju) for describing the black hole interior, which may have implications towards the resolution of the information paradox
[JHEP 1310 (2013) 212], [PRL 112 (2014) 5], [Phys.Rev. D89 (2014)], [PRL 115
(2015)],[Int.J.Mod.Phys. D22 (2013)], [JHEP 1605 (2016), KP, S.Raju, J.W. Bryan, S.

Banerjee]

## Key physical principles:

i) Locality in quantum gravity is not exact
ii) State dependence of physical observables

More recent developments: a new class of non-equilibrium BH states, connection to traversable wormholes
[1708.06328, KP]
[1708.09370, Rik van Breukelen and KP],
work in progress with J. de Boer, S. Lokhande, R. van Breukelen, E. Verlinde

## The information paradox



Inconsistent with unitary evolution in quantum mechanics

$$
|\Psi(t)\rangle=e^{-i H t}|\Psi(0)\rangle
$$

## Normal "burning" process

Why no information loss problem?
Radiation appears to be thermal

There are correlations (entanglement) between photons.

Typical size $e^{-S}$ for small number of photons [Page]

The entanglement among all outgoing photons carries the full information of initial state

## Pure vs Mixed states



Theorem: In a large quantum system, for most pure states, and simple observables $A$, we have

$$
\langle\Psi| A|\Psi\rangle=\operatorname{Tr}\left(\rho_{\text {micro }} A\right)+O\left(e^{-S}\right)
$$

but notice that for complicated observables where $n \approx S$

$$
\langle\Psi| A_{1} \ldots A_{n}|\Psi\rangle=\operatorname{Tr}\left(\rho_{\text {micro }} A_{1} \ldots A_{n}\right)+O\left(e^{-(S-n)}\right)
$$

[S.Lloyd]
Define $\langle A\rangle_{\text {micro }}=\operatorname{Tr}\left(\rho_{\text {micro }} A\right)$
We also define the average over pure states in $\mathcal{H}_{E}$

$$
\overline{\langle\Psi| A|\Psi\rangle} \equiv \int\left[d \mu_{\Psi}\right]\langle\Psi| A|\Psi\rangle
$$

where $\left[d \mu_{\Psi}\right]$ is the Haar measure. Then for any observable $A$ we have

$$
\overline{\langle\Psi| A|\Psi\rangle}=\langle A\rangle_{\text {micro }}
$$

and

$$
\text { variance } \equiv \overline{\left(\langle\Psi| A|\Psi\rangle^{2}\right)}-\left(\langle A\rangle_{\text {micro }}\right)^{2}=\frac{1}{e^{S}+1}\left(\left\langle A^{2}\right\rangle_{\text {micro }}-\left(\langle A\rangle_{\text {micro }}\right)^{2}\right)
$$

"reasonable" observables have the same expectation value in most pure states, up to exponentially small corrections.

## Unitarity from small corrections



Hawking's computation is semiclassical, we do expect corrections

$$
\rho=\rho_{\text {thermal }}+\rho_{\text {cor }}
$$

Statistical Mechanics: Even if corrections $\rho_{\text {cor }}$ were sufficiently large to restore unitarity, they would generally only lead to exponentially small ( $e^{-S_{B H}}$ ) deviations from Hawking's predictions for simple observables.
Reminder: for solar mass BH $S_{B H} \approx 10^{77}$

## Comments



In the scenario of unitarization of BH evaporation via small corrections to Hawking's computation:

- Hawking predictions for simple observables may be accurate up to $e^{-S_{B H}}$ deviations
- There may be important deviations for complicated observables (for example correlators between $O\left(S_{B H}\right)$ Hawking particles - significant entanglement)
- Hawking computation does not lead to a sharp paradox for observables in Effective Field Theory.
- So far we have not said anything about the BH interior...


## Entanglement near the horizon

Hawking particles are produced in entangled pairs
This entanglement is necessary for the smoothness of spacetime near the horizon

Example: flat space, Unruh effect



Star

$$
|0\rangle_{M}=\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} e^{-\pi \omega n}|n\rangle_{L} \otimes|n\rangle_{R} \quad|\Psi\rangle=|0\rangle_{L} \otimes|0\rangle_{R} \rightarrow\left\langle T_{\mu \nu}\right\rangle \neq 0
$$

## Modern info paradox, infalling observer

[Mathur, 2009], [Almheiri, Marolf, Polchinski, Sully, 2012]


General Relativity: smooth horizon, $B$ entangled with $C$

Quantum Mechanics: no information loss, $B$ entangled with $A$
$B$ violates monogamy of entanglement
Violation of strong subadditivity of entanglement entropy: for 3 independent systems $A, B, C$ we have

$$
S_{A B}+S_{B C} \geq S_{A}+S_{C}
$$

Mathur's theorem: "small corrections cannot fix the problem " (?)

## Unitarity or smooth horizon?

Giving up B-C entanglement?
Firewall, fuzzball* proposals $\Rightarrow\left\langle T_{\mu \nu}\right\rangle$ at horizon is very large, BH interior geometry is completely modified (maybe no interior at all)

Infalling observer "burns" upon impact on the horizon.

Dramatic modification of General Relativity/Effective Field Theory over macroscopic scales, due to quantum effects

## Chaos vs "specific entanglement"

Black Holes are Chaotic Quantum Systems


How can typical states have specific entanglement between $B, C$ which is needed for smoothness?

Correct entanglement fragile under perturbations due to chaotic nature of system
[Shenker, Stanford]

## Summary

- The modern version of the info paradox, is intimately related to the smoothness of the horizon and to what happens to the infalling observer.
- We have a conflict between QM and General Relativity because it seems impossible to have the correct entanglement of quantum fields, needed for smoothness, near the horizon.
- We will study the problem in AdS/CFT.


## Black Holes in AdS/CFT



Non-perturbative Black Hole S-matrix encoded in CFT correlators
Manifestly Unitary

## Black Hole interior in AdS/CFT?



The modern information paradox is related to the smoothness of the BH horizon.
Can we study the black hole horizon/interior in AdS/CFT?
Until recently it was not known how to do this.
In work with S.Raju we proposed a new class of CFT operators which are able to describe the BH interior.

## Local observables in AdS

[Hamilton, Kabat, Lifshytz, Lowe] construction

$$
\phi(x)=\int d Y K(x, Y) \mathcal{O}(Y)
$$

$\mathcal{O}=$ local single trace operator
$K=$ known kernel
Locality in bulk is approximate:

1. True in $1 / N$ perturbation theory
2. $\left[\phi\left(P_{1}\right), \phi\left(P_{2}\right)\right]=0$ only up to $e^{-N^{2}}$ accuracy
3. Locality may break down for high-point functions


For smooth horizon effective field theory requires:
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { I) } \tilde{b} \text { commute with } b & \text { AND } \\ \text { II) } \tilde{b} \text { entangled with } b\end{array}$

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
b & \Leftrightarrow & \mathcal{O} \\
\widetilde{b} & \Leftrightarrow & ?
\end{array}
$$

Which CFT operators $\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}$ correspond to $\widetilde{b}$ ? Why is operator algebra "doubled "?

## Direct reconstruction?



- Transplanckian problem
- States formed by collapse form a small subset of typical BH states.


## Firewall paradox for large AdS black holes



- [AMPSS, Marolf-Polchinski] paradox: effective field theory implies $\left[H, \widetilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega}^{\dagger}\right]=-\omega \widetilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega}^{\dagger}$. This leads to

$$
\operatorname{Tr}\left[e^{-\beta H} \widetilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega}^{\dagger} \widetilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega}\right]<0
$$

which is inconsistent

- Notice that this is a firewall paradox for big, stable AdS black holes.

Is there a way out?

## A construction of the BH interior

[KP and S.Raju]

- If we take a CFT state $|\Psi\rangle$ of $O\left(N^{2}\right)$ energy, we expect that at late times it will thermalize.

$$
\langle\Psi| \mathcal{O}_{1}\left(x_{1}\right) \ldots \mathcal{O}_{n}\left(x_{n}\right)|\Psi\rangle \approx Z^{-1} \operatorname{Tr}\left(e^{-\beta H} \mathcal{O}_{1}\left(x_{1}\right) \ldots \mathcal{O}_{n}\left(x_{n}\right)\right)
$$

- This is true only for simple observables $n \ll N$
- Thermalization of pure state $\Rightarrow$ must have the notion of a small algebra of observables
- In a large $N$ gauge theory, natural small "algebra" $\mathcal{A}=$ products of few, single trace operators


## Intuitive picture

- Even though we are in a single CFT in a pure state, the small algebra of single trace operators probes the pure state $|\Psi\rangle$ as if it were an entangled state

$$
\langle\Psi| \mathcal{O O} \ldots|\Psi\rangle \approx \operatorname{Tr}\left[e^{-\beta H} \mathcal{O} \mathcal{O} \ldots\right] \quad \leftrightarrow \quad|T F D\rangle=\sum_{E} \frac{e^{-\beta E / 2}}{\sqrt{Z}}|E\rangle \otimes|E\rangle
$$

- Operator algebra seems to be doubled! 2nd copy $\rightarrow$ operators behind horizon
- Usually thought of as a mathematical trick. In my work with S.Raju, we proposed a physical interpretation:
The $O\left(N^{2}\right)$ d.o.f. of the CFT play the role of the "heat bath" for the small algebra of single trace operators. The second copy of the thermofield formalism represents this heat bath.
- Whatever operators the single trace operators are entangled with, will play the role operators behind the horizon.
- How do we identify these operators mathematically?


## Small algebra of observables

Small algebra generated by single trace operators

$$
\mathcal{A} \equiv \operatorname{span}\left[\mathcal{O}\left(x_{1}\right), \mathcal{O}\left(x_{1}\right) \mathcal{O}\left(x_{2}\right), \ldots\right]
$$

If $|\Psi\rangle$ is a BH microstate, we have nontrivial property

$$
A|\Psi\rangle \neq 0 \quad \forall A \in \mathcal{A}, A \neq 0
$$

Physically this means that the state seems to be entangled when probed by the algebra $\mathcal{A}$.

## The small Hilbert space



$$
\mathcal{H}_{\Psi}=\operatorname{span}\{\mathcal{A}|\Psi\rangle\}
$$

Which was called "code subspace" in later works by other authors.
Effective Field Theory in bulk takes place within this subspace

$$
\phi\left(x_{1}\right) \ldots \phi\left(x_{n}\right)|\Psi\rangle
$$

## Tomita-Takesaki modular theory

Algebra $\mathcal{A}$ acts on $\mathcal{H}_{\Psi}$. It has two properties:
i) By acting on $|\Psi\rangle$ the algebra $\mathcal{A}$ generates $\mathcal{H}_{\Psi}$
ii) The algebra $\mathcal{A}$ cannot annihilate state $|\Psi\rangle$.

Theorem: The representation of the algebra on $\mathcal{H}_{\Psi}$ is reducible, and the algebra has an isomorphic commutant (2nd copy) acting on the same space.

Define antilinear map
and

$$
S A|\Psi\rangle=A^{\dagger}|\Psi\rangle
$$

$$
\Delta=S^{\dagger} S \quad J=S \Delta^{-1 / 2}
$$

Then for any $\mathcal{O} \in \mathcal{A}$, the operators

$$
\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}=J \mathcal{O} J
$$

i) commute with elements of $\mathcal{A}$
ii) are entangled with $\mathcal{O}$ (non-zero 2-point functions)

These are the operators that we need for the Black Hole interior.

## The modular Hamiltonian

The operator $\Delta=S^{\dagger} S$ is a positive, hermitian operator and can be written as

$$
\Delta=e^{-K}
$$

where

$$
K=\text { modular Hamiltonian }
$$

for the small algebra

Using the large $N$ expansion and the KMS condition for thermal correlators in equilibrium states

$$
K=\beta\left(H_{C F T}-E_{0}\right)
$$

## In practice

$$
\begin{gathered}
\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega}|\Psi\rangle=e^{-\frac{\beta \omega}{2}} \mathcal{O}_{\omega}^{\dagger}|\Psi\rangle \\
\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega} \mathcal{O} \ldots \mathcal{O}|\Psi\rangle=\mathcal{O} \ldots \mathcal{O} \widetilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega}|\Psi\rangle \\
{\left[H, \widetilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega}\right] \mathcal{O} \ldots \mathcal{O}|\Psi\rangle=\omega \widetilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega} \mathcal{O} \ldots . \mathcal{O}|\Psi\rangle}
\end{gathered}
$$

These equations define the operators $\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}$ on a subspace $\mathcal{H}_{\Psi} \subset \mathcal{H}_{\mathrm{CFT}}$, which is relevant for EFT around BH microstate $|\Psi\rangle$

$$
\mathcal{H}_{\Psi}=\operatorname{span} \mathcal{A}|\Psi\rangle
$$

Equations admit solution because the algebra $\mathcal{A}$ cannot annihilate the state $|\Psi\rangle$


Bulk field inside BH

$$
\phi(t, r, \Omega)=\int_{0}^{\infty} d \omega\left[\mathcal{O}_{\omega} f_{\omega}(t, \Omega, r)+\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega} g_{\omega}(t, \Omega, r)+\text { h.c. }\right]
$$

Correlation functions of these operators reproduce those of effective field theory in the exterior/interior of the black hole

Smooth spacetime at the horizon, no firewall/fuzzball. At the same time, Unitarity is OK

What about previous paradoxes?

## Non-locality in Quantum Gravity

$\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}$ were constructed based on the fact that we restricted our attention to a "small algebra" of $\mathcal{O}$ 's. The construction breaks down if the "small algebra" is enlarged to include all operators
$[\mathcal{O}, \widetilde{\mathcal{O}}]=0$ only on $\mathcal{H}_{\Psi}$, not as operator equation
Operators $\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}=$ complicated combinations of $\mathcal{O}$. Realization of BH complementarity


$$
\begin{gathered}
{[\phi(P), \phi(Q)] \sim 0} \\
{\left[\phi(P), \Phi^{\text {complex }}(Q)\right]=O(1)}
\end{gathered}
$$

The Hilbert space of Quantum Gravity does not factorize as $\mathcal{H}_{\text {inside }} \otimes \mathcal{H}_{\text {outside }}$

1) Solves problem of Monogamy of Entanglement (and avoids Mathur's theorem)
2) Is consistent with locality in EFT, concrete mathematical realization of complementarity

## A toy model of complementarity

[JHEP 1605 (2016), KP, S.Raju, J.W. Bryan, S. Banerjee]


Global AdS: operators in $\mathcal{D}$ can be represented as complicated operators in the time band $\mathcal{B}$

## State-dependence

- Interior operators defined by

$$
\begin{gathered}
\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega}|\Psi\rangle=e^{-\frac{\beta \omega}{2}} \mathcal{O}_{\omega}^{\dagger}|\Psi\rangle \\
\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega} \mathcal{O} \ldots \mathcal{O}|\Psi\rangle=\mathcal{O} \ldots \mathcal{O} \widetilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega}|\Psi\rangle \\
{\left[H, \widetilde{\mathcal{O}}_{\omega}\right]|\Psi\rangle=\omega|\Psi\rangle}
\end{gathered}
$$

- Solution defined only on $\mathcal{H}_{\Psi}$, depends on reference state $|\Psi\rangle$
- Operators cannot be upgraded to "globally defined" operators
- State-dependence solves Chaos vs Entanglement problem naturally: operators are selected by the entanglement!
- Novel QM feature of black hole interior?


## Connection to $\mathrm{ER}=\mathrm{EPR}$

## [K.P and S.Raju (1503.08825)]

Entanglement \& Wormholes (Maldacena, Susskind, Raamsdonk)


$$
\begin{gathered}
H=H_{L}+H_{R} \\
|\mathrm{TFD}\rangle=\sum_{E} \frac{e^{-\beta E / 2}}{\sqrt{Z}}|E\rangle_{L} \otimes|E\rangle_{R}
\end{gathered}
$$

## $E R=E P R$


$\mathrm{CFT}_{\mathrm{R}} \quad|\mathrm{TFD}\rangle=\frac{1}{\sqrt{Z}} \sum_{i} e^{-\frac{\beta E_{i}}{2}}\left|E_{i}\right\rangle_{L} \otimes\left|E_{i}\right\rangle_{R}$

$|\Psi\rangle=\sum_{i j} c_{i j}\left|E_{i}\right\rangle_{L} \otimes\left|E_{j}\right\rangle_{R}$
$\mathrm{CFT}_{\mathrm{R}}$

$$
c_{i j}=\text { generic }
$$

## Time-shifted wormholes

[K.P and S.Raju, PRL 115 (2015)]

$$
\left|\Psi_{T}\right\rangle \equiv e^{i H_{R} T}|\mathrm{TFD}\rangle
$$



The states $\left|\Psi_{T}\right\rangle$ are related to $\mid$ TFD $\rangle$ by a large diffeomorphism. They should* be as smooth as |TFD $\rangle$.
We showed that it is impossible to find fixed operators, for all states $\left|\Psi_{T}\right\rangle$, describing the BH interior

Strong evidence in favor of state-dependence

## Proof using traversable wormholes

[Gao-Jafferis-Wall],[Maldacena, Stanford, Yang] [1708.09370, Rik van Breukelen, KP]


Evidence for smoothness of $\mid$ TFD $\rangle$ state.

## Traversable wormholes and state-dependence

[1708.xxxxx, Rik van Breukelen, KP]

couple two CFTs at $t=0$ with

$$
U=e^{i g O_{L}(t=0) X_{R}(t=0)}
$$

where $X_{R} \equiv e^{i H_{R} T} O_{R} e^{-i H_{R} T}$

This shows that indeed a very large class of states

$$
\left|\Psi_{T}\right\rangle=e^{i H_{R} T}|T F D\rangle
$$

are smooth! As mentioned in this previous slide this can only happen if the interior operators are state dependent.

Hence this new result confirms state-dependence within this class of states.

## Summary on state dependence

- Solves the firewall paradox, provides reconstruction of BH interior in AdS/CFT.
- New feature in QM, needs to be understood better.
- Quantum measurement theory for the infaller (observer is part of the system)
- Time evolution for observer crossing the horizon (is infaller Hamiltonian state-dependent, if so, what principle selects it?)


## Thermalization in gauge theories

[KP 1708.06328]


A new class of non-equilibrium states


$$
|\Psi\rangle=U(\widetilde{\mathcal{O}})\left|\Psi_{0}\right\rangle=e^{-\frac{\beta H}{2}} U(\mathcal{O}) e^{\frac{\beta H}{2}}\left|\Psi_{0}\right\rangle
$$

## A new class of non-equilibrium states



- $\left|\Psi_{0}\right\rangle=$ equilibrium state
- $U(\mathcal{O})\left|\Psi_{0}\right\rangle=$ standard non-equilibrium state
- $e^{-\frac{\beta H}{2}} U(\mathcal{O}) e^{\frac{\beta H}{2}}\left|\Psi_{0}\right\rangle=$ new type of non-equilibrium state


## Localized states in Rindler space




For Rindler space, modular Hamiltonian is Lorentz boost generator $M$ in $t, x^{1}$ plane. Unruh inverse temperature

$$
\begin{gathered}
\beta=2 \pi \\
e^{-\pi M} U_{R} e^{\pi M}|0\rangle=U_{L}^{\prime}|0\rangle
\end{gathered}
$$

## Properties of the new states



- They seem to be in equilibrium in terms of single-trace correlators

$$
\frac{d}{d t}\langle\Psi| \mathcal{O}(t)|\Psi\rangle=0
$$

- It can be seen that they are out of equilibrium by incuding $H$ in the correlator

$$
\frac{d}{d t}\langle\Psi| \mathcal{O}(t) H|\Psi\rangle \neq 0
$$

## Example




Consider a 2d CFT on $\mathbb{S}^{1} \times R$ on a state $|\Psi\rangle=e^{-\frac{\beta H}{2}} U(\mathcal{O}) e^{\frac{\beta H}{2}}\left|\Psi_{0}\right\rangle$, with $U=e^{i \theta \mathcal{O}\left(t_{0}\right)}$. Then at large $c$ we find

$$
\langle\Psi| \mathcal{O}(t) \hat{H}|\Psi\rangle=\theta 2 \Delta\left(\frac{2 \pi}{\beta}\right)^{2 \Delta+1} \sum_{m=-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{\sinh \left(\frac{2 \pi\left(t-t_{0}\right)}{\beta}\right)}{\left[2 \cosh \left(\frac{4 \pi^{2} m}{\beta}\right)+2 \cosh \left(\frac{2 \pi\left(t-t_{0}\right)}{\beta}\right)\right]^{\Delta+1}}
$$

## Extracting the particle behind the horizon


[in progress with J. de Boer, S. Lokhande, R. van Breukelen]

## Testing the conjecture



We can create negative energy shockwaves by acting with

$$
e^{i g \mathcal{O} \widetilde{\mathcal{O}}}
$$

on the state

$$
e^{-\frac{\beta H}{2}} U(\mathcal{O}) e^{\frac{\beta H}{2}}\left|\Psi_{0}\right\rangle
$$

The excitation should be detected in the CFT with usual single trace operators. See also recent work of [Kourkoulou, Maldacena] for similar states in SYK model

## Non-equilibrium states and the black hole interior

- We have identified a class of states in the Hilbert space of the boundary CFT, which correspond black holes with excitations behind the horizon.
- They can be simply written as

$$
e^{-\frac{\beta H}{2}} U(\mathcal{O}) e^{\frac{\beta H}{2}}\left|\Psi_{0}\right\rangle
$$

without having to use $\widetilde{\mathcal{O}}$.

- Their existence gives additional evidence that BH interior can be described in the CFT
- They contain information about part of the "left region" for a 1-sided black hole!
- These states may be interesting more generally from the point of view of statistical mechanics


## Summary and outlook

- The modern version of the info paradox has to do with entanglement at the horizon
- I described a proposal suggesting how it might be resolved.
- This proposal provides a reconstruction of the BH interior in AdS/CFT
- Key principles: non-locality and state-dependence
- Interesting connections with non-equilibrium states and thermalization
- The "traversable wormhole" protocols open up new exciting ways of testing these ideas and probing the black hole interior via scattering experiments.
- New evidence in favor of state-dependence.

THANK YOU

