Quantum Geometry and Hawking Radiation

Pei-Ming Ho
National Taiwan University
Aug. 19, 2025

[PMH-Kawai-Yokokura 2111.01967][PMH-Kawai 2207.07122]
[Chau-PMH-Kawai-Shao-Wang 2309.01638]
[PMH-Imamura-Kawai-Shao 2309.12936]
[PMH-Kawai-Shao 2411.01105]
[Chang-PMH-Lee-Shao 2412.02577]
[Ho-Shao-Yoda ...][Cheng-Ho-Kawai-Shao ...]

spacetime uncertainty and UV-IR connection

Noncommutative Geometry:

$$[x,t] = i\ell_p^2 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Delta x \Delta t \gtrsim \ell_p^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad \Delta x > \ell_p^2 \Delta E > \ell_p^2 \Delta p$$

$$\Delta x \gtrsim \ell_p^2 \Delta p \quad \text{(UV-IR connection)}$$

Generalized Uncertainty Relation: [Amati-Ciafaloni-Veneziano 87, 89] [Konishi-Paffuti-Provero 90]

$$\Delta x \Delta p \gtrsim 1 + \ell_p^2 \Delta p^2$$

Large
$$\Delta p \rightarrow \Delta x \gtrsim \ell_p^2 \Delta p$$

spacetime uncertainty and UV-IR connection

$$\Delta x \gtrsim \ell_p^2 \Delta p$$
 (UV-IR connection)

→ Large spatial uncertainty at trans-Planckian energies.

Dramatic UV corrections with IR effects.

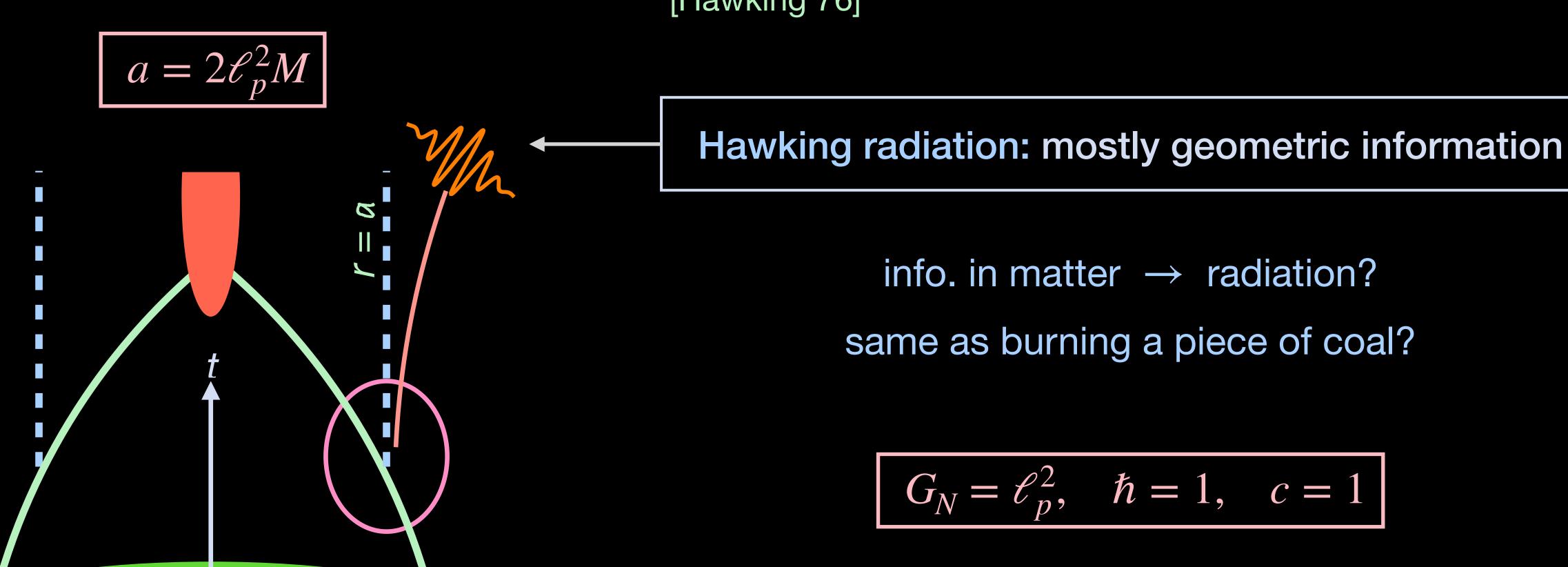
Hawking radiation is insensitive to generic UV physics.

But it is sensitive to UV-IR connection:

→ Hawking radiation stops around scrambling time.

black hole formation and evaporation: conventional model

[Hawking 76]



matter shell

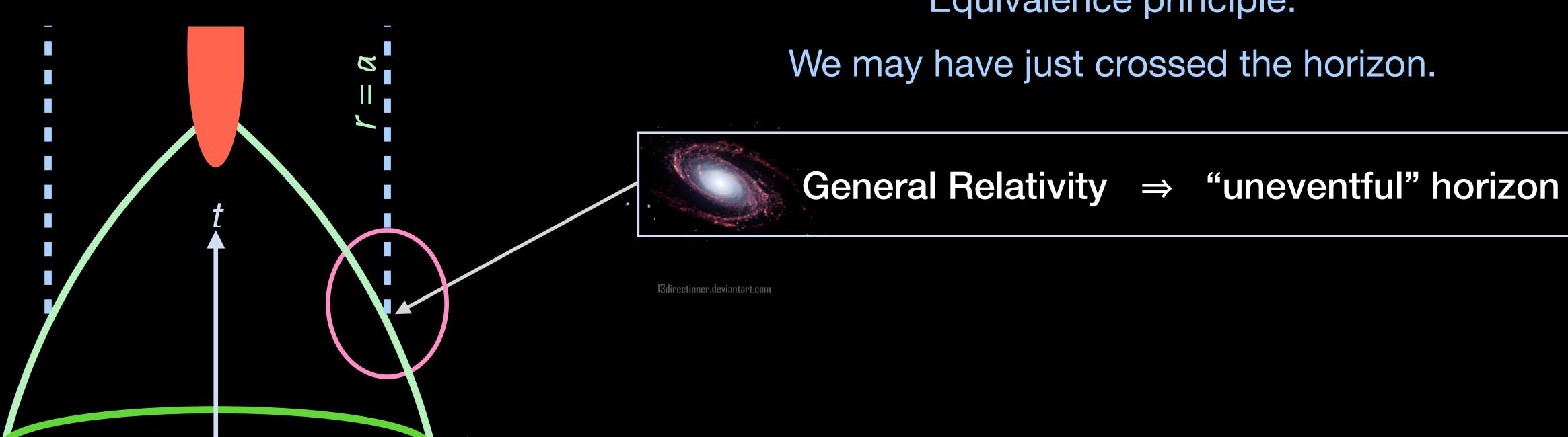
black hole formation and evaporation: conventional model

[Hawking 76]

$$a = 2\ell_p^2 M$$

matter shell





black-hole information paradox

Hawking's calculation in low-energy effective theory (LEET)

- → Hawking radiation carries (almost) no information and persists until (almost) complete evaporation
 - → information paradox

Q: Is Hawking's LEET calculation reliable?

black-hole information paradox

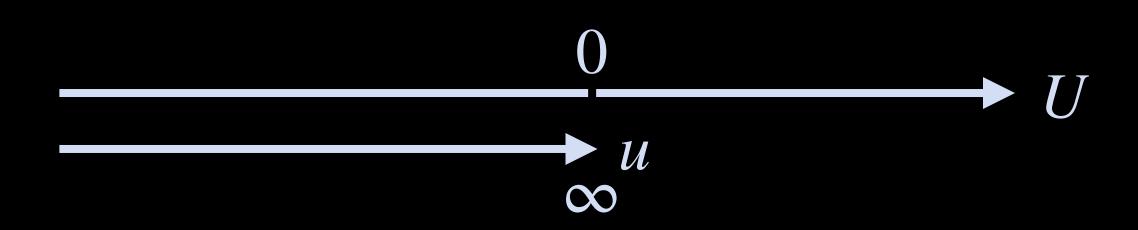
[Quanta magazine "The Fuzzball Fix for a Black Hole Paradox" 2015]

Polchinski said of Hawking's original premise:

- "... a situation that seems to violate the laws of quantum mechanics.
- ... 'Quantum mechanics is modified. Find my mistake.' And nobody found his mistake."

There have been countless papers on how Hawking radiation is robust, insensitive to UV modifications of LEET.

[Hawking 74]



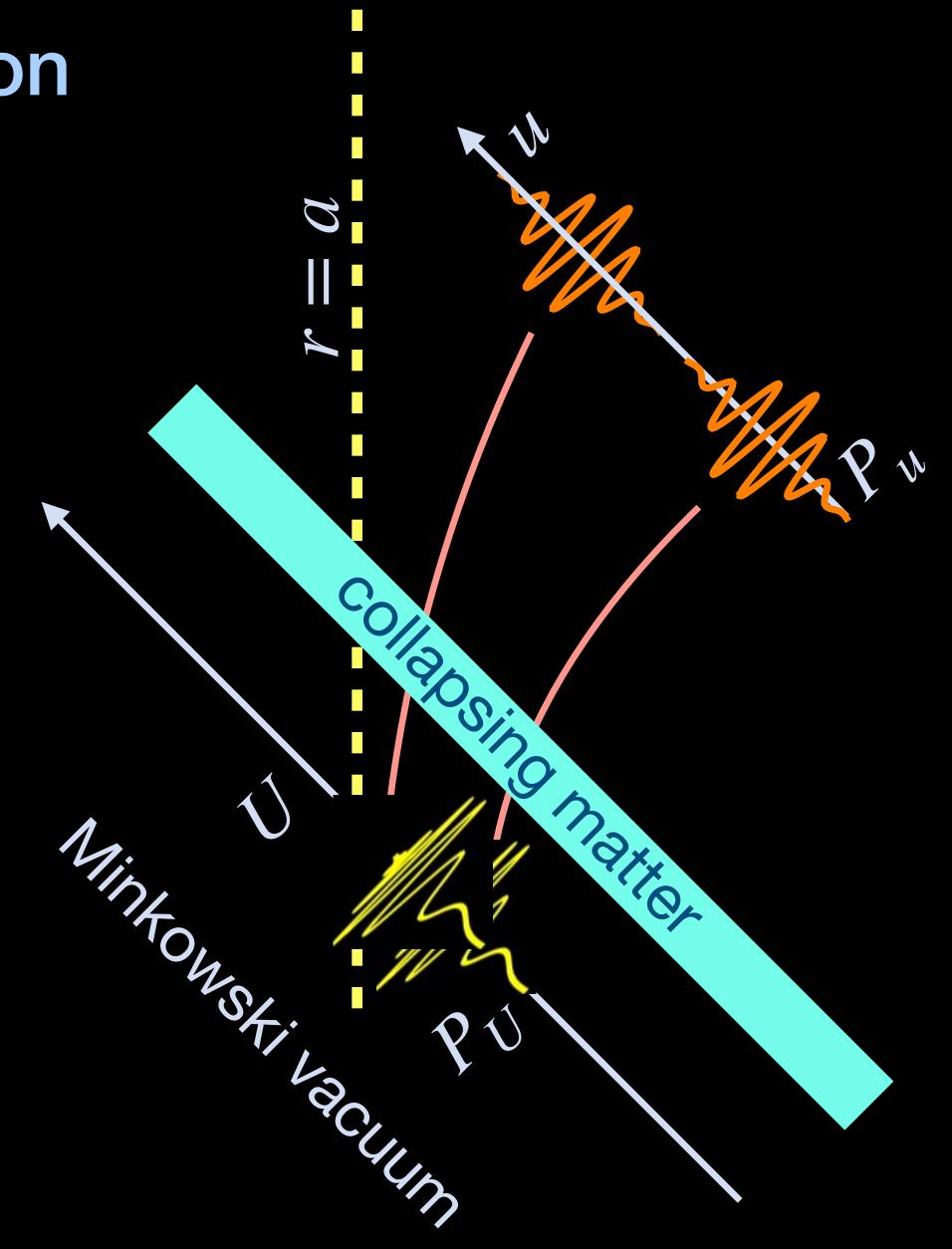
$$U = -2ae^{-u/2a}$$

$$\langle P_U \rangle \sim \langle P_u \rangle e^{u/2a}$$

Minkowski vacuum $|0\rangle$ of the infinite past

≃ Hawking radiation at large distance

Q: Is there a trans-Planckian Lorentz-invariant?



[Hawking 74]

outgoing massless scalar

$$\phi = \int_0^\infty \frac{d\Omega}{2\pi\sqrt{\Omega}r} \left(a_\Omega e^{-i\Omega U} + a_\Omega^\dagger e^{i\Omega U} \right) = \int_0^\infty \frac{d\omega}{2\pi\sqrt{\omega}r} \left(b_\omega e^{-i\omega u} + b_\omega^\dagger e^{i\omega u} \right)$$

[Hawking 74]

outgoing massless scalar

$$\phi = \int_0^\infty \frac{d\Omega}{2\pi\sqrt{\Omega}r} \left(a_\Omega e^{-i\Omega U} + a_\Omega^\dagger e^{i\Omega U} \right) = \int_0^\infty \frac{d\omega}{2\pi\sqrt{\omega}r} \left(b_\omega e^{-i\omega u} + b_\omega^\dagger e^{i\omega u} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow b_{\omega} = \int_{0}^{\infty} d\Omega \left(\alpha_{\omega\Omega} a_{\Omega} + \beta_{\omega\Omega} a_{\Omega}^{\dagger} \right), \qquad b_{\omega}^{\dagger} = \int_{0}^{\infty} d\Omega \left(\alpha_{\omega\Omega}^{*} a_{\Omega}^{\dagger} + \beta_{\omega\Omega}^{*} a_{\Omega} \right).$$

[Hawking 74]

outgoing massless scalar

$$\phi = \int_0^\infty \frac{d\Omega}{2\pi\sqrt{\Omega}r} \left(a_\Omega e^{-i\Omega U} + a_\Omega^\dagger e^{i\Omega U} \right) = \int_0^\infty \frac{d\omega}{2\pi\sqrt{\omega}r} \left(b_\omega e^{-i\omega u} + b_\omega^\dagger e^{i\omega u} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow b_{\omega} = \int_{0}^{\infty} d\Omega \left(\alpha_{\omega\Omega} a_{\Omega} + \beta_{\omega\Omega} a_{\Omega}^{\dagger} \right), \qquad b_{\omega}^{\dagger} = \int_{0}^{\infty} d\Omega \left(\alpha_{\omega\Omega}^{*} a_{\Omega}^{\dagger} + \beta_{\omega\Omega}^{*} a_{\Omega} \right).$$

Unruh vacuum (for freely falling observers): $a_{\Omega}|0\rangle = 0$ $(\forall \Omega > 0)$

→ No Hawking radiation for freely falling observers.

Hawking radiation for <u>distant observers</u>: $\langle 0 | b_{\omega}^{\dagger} b_{\omega'} | 0 \rangle > 0$.

higher-derivative interactions

[PMH-Yokokura 20][PMH-Kawai-Yokokura 21]

Ex:

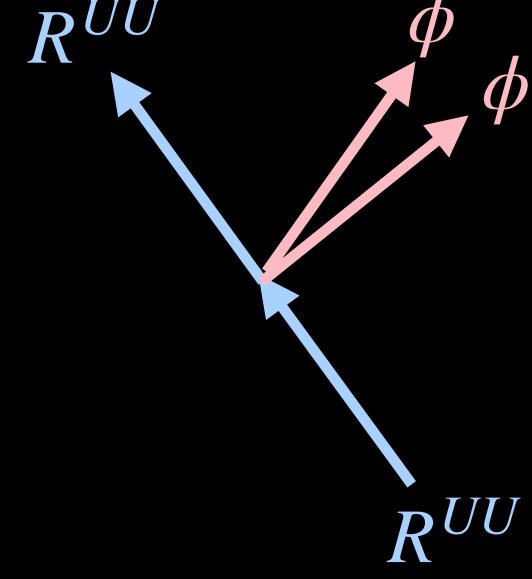
$$S_{n} \equiv \frac{\lambda_{n}}{M_{p}^{4n-2}} \int d^{4}x \sqrt{-g} R^{\mu_{1}\nu_{1}} \cdots R^{\mu_{n}\nu_{n}} \left(\nabla_{\mu_{1}} \cdots \nabla_{\mu_{n}} \phi \right) \left(\nabla_{\nu_{1}} \cdots \nabla_{\nu_{n}} \phi \right)$$

$$\sim \lambda_{n} \left(\frac{s}{M_{p}^{2}} \right)^{2n-1}$$

$$R^{UU} \qquad \phi$$

$$s \equiv P_U P_V \sim \frac{1}{a^2} e^{u/2a}$$

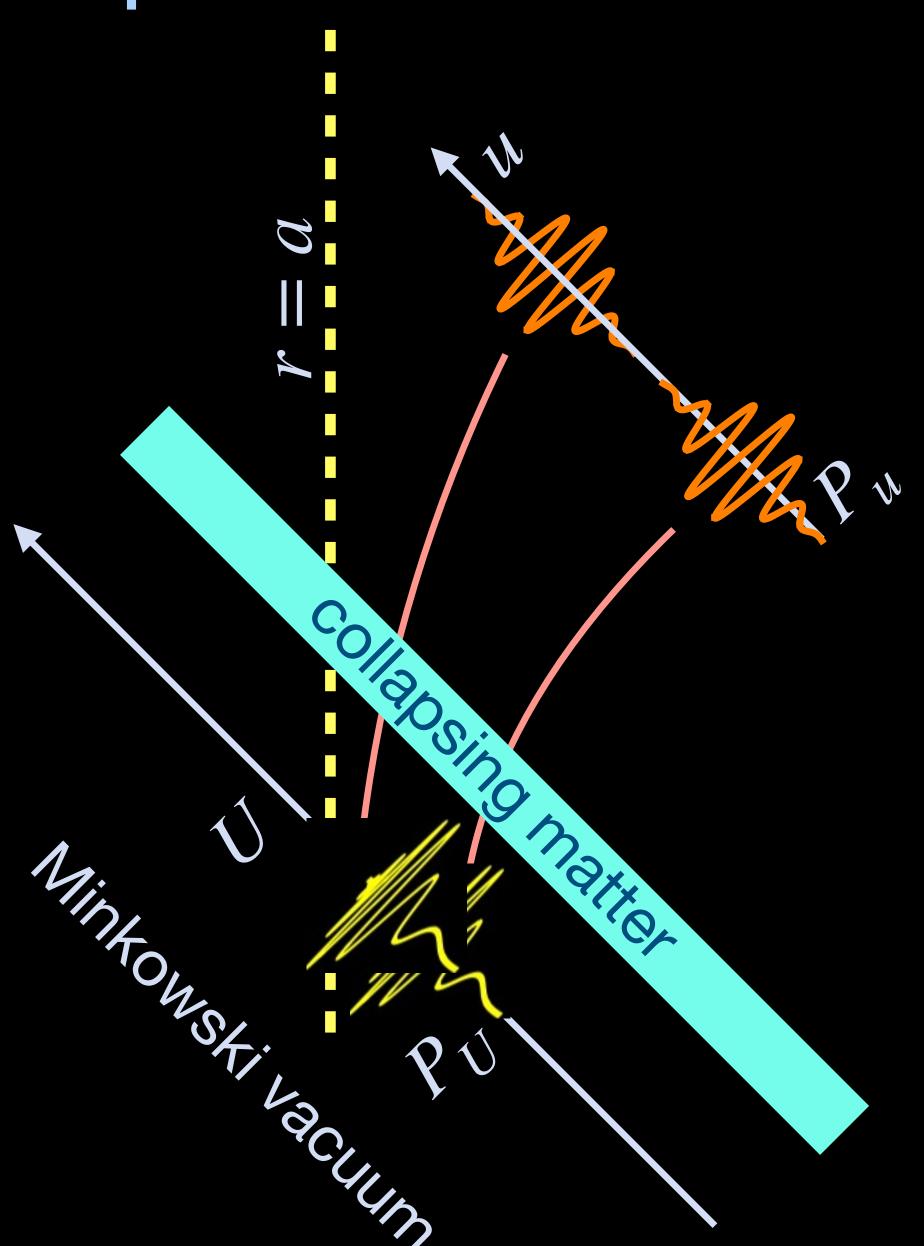
$$u \sim a \log(a/\ell_p) \Rightarrow Ampl. \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$$



black hole as a microscope

The detection of Hawking quanta explores trans-Planckian regions of the spacetime in Minkowski vacuum.

It needs UV theories for reliable predictions.



black-hole information paradox

Q: Is Hawking's calculation reliable?

No. ← Trans-Planckian local Lorentz inv. after scrambling time.

black-hole information paradox

Q: Is Hawking's calculation reliable?

No. ← Trans-Planckian local Lorentz inv. after scrambling time.

→ UV physics is relevant.

How does a given UV theory change HR?

- 1. HR as in LEET ⇒ still a paradox. ← literature
- 2. HR enhanced by informative radiation.

Q: Other logical possibilities?

alternative resolution

[Chau-PMH-Kawai-Shao-Wang 23][PMH-Imamura-Kawai-Shao 23][PMH-Kawai-Shao 24]

3. Hawking radiation stops well before the Page time, say, around scrambling time:

$$t_{scr} \sim a \log(a/\ell_p) \ll t_{Page} \sim a^3/\ell_p^2$$

→ HR is negligible.

alternative resolution

[Chau-PMH-Kawai-Shao-Wang 23][PMH-Imamura-Kawai-Shao 23][PMH-Kawai-Shao 24]

3. Hawking radiation stops well before the Page time, say, around scrambling time:

$$t_{scr} \sim a \log(a/\ell_p) \ll t_{Page} \sim a^3/\ell_p^2$$

→ HR is negligible.

However, in the literature, "HR is insensitive to UV." Are there loopholes in the literature?

Departure from the literature

In the literature, typically,

• the collapsing matter is ignored.

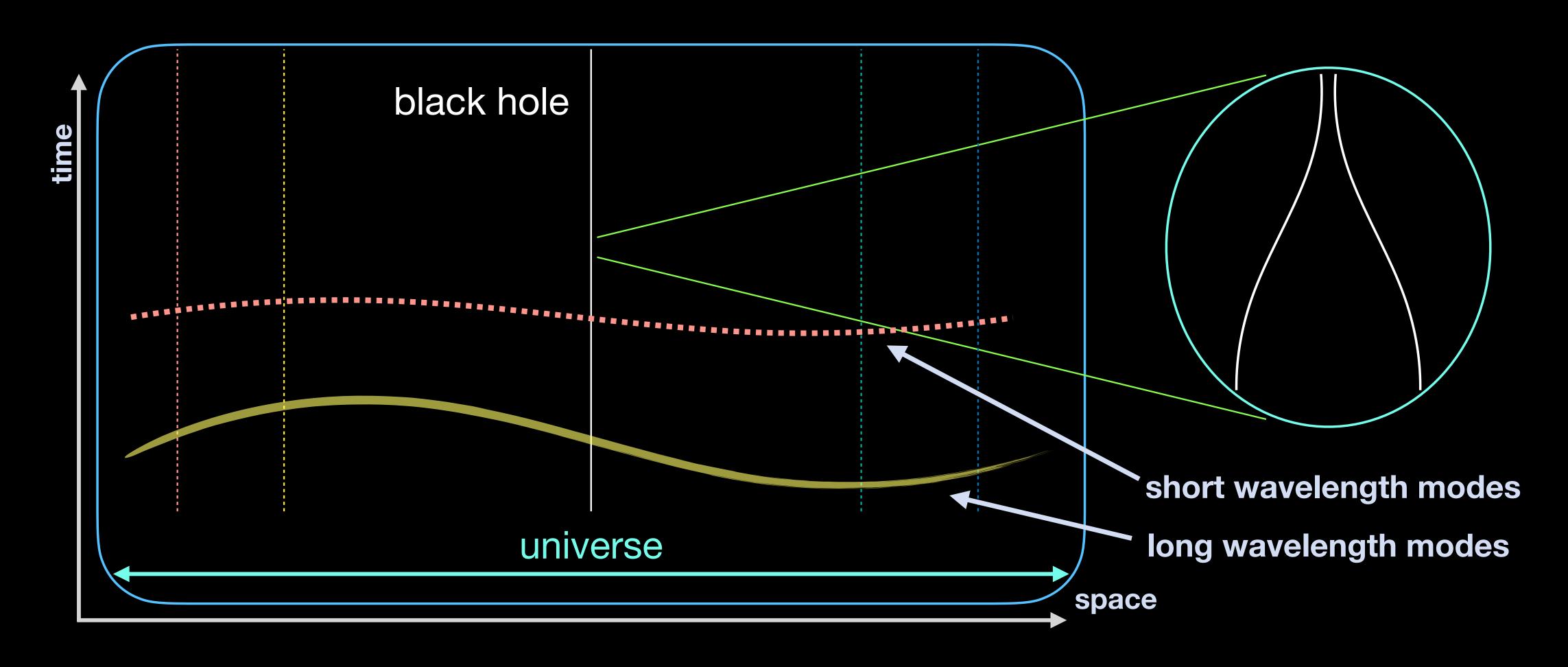
Time translation symmetry \Rightarrow Hawking radiation persists.

Hartle-Hawking or Boulware vacuum.

- time-dependent amplitude of Hawking radiation is not derived.
 - Hawking temperature is indeed robust.
- there is no UV-IR relation in UV physics.
 - e.g. UV dispersion relations do not turn off Hawking radiation.
 - e.g. 2D or 3D theories.

Small-scale strcutures are irrelevant to low-energy modes.

UV-IR relation \rightarrow also to trans-Planckian modes.



Generalized Uncertainty Principle (GUP)

[Amati-Ciafaloni-Veneziano 87, 89] [Konishi-Paffuti-Provero 90]

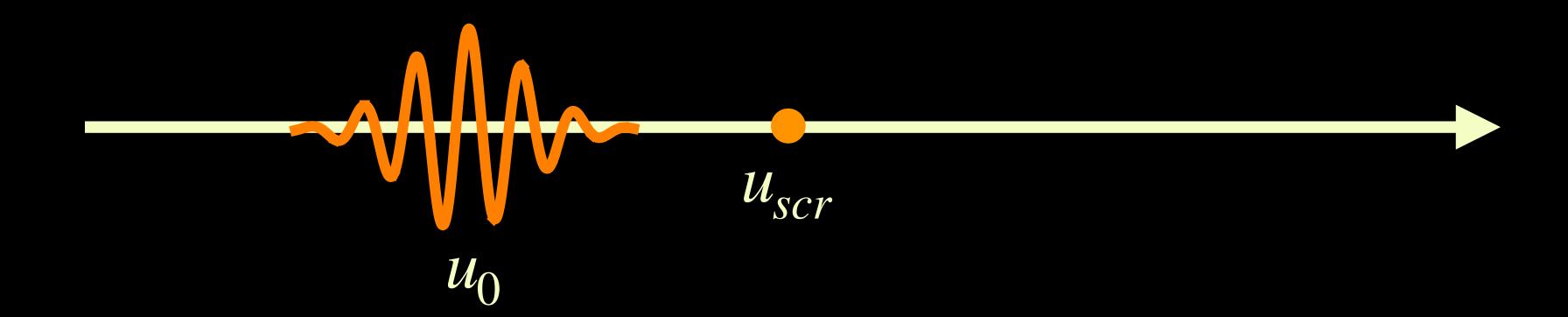
$$\left(\Delta x \Delta p \gtrsim 1 + \ell_p^2 \Delta p^2\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow$$
 minimal length $\Delta x \gtrsim 2\ell_p$

$$\Delta p \gg \ell_p^{-1} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Delta x \gtrsim \ell_p^2 \Delta p$$

Robustness of HR with GUP noted repeatedly in many works.

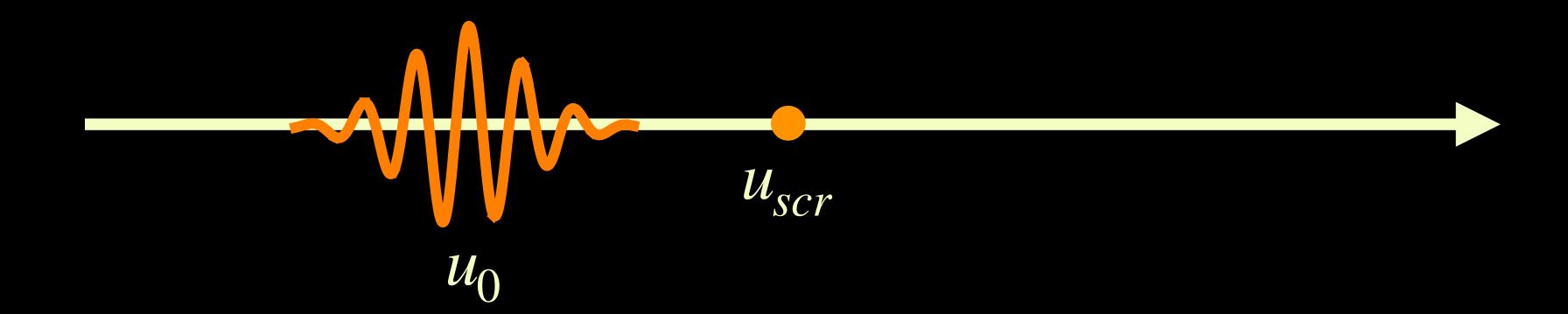
[0506110, 1212.6591, 1410.4115, 1410.5065, 1501.03256, 1501.06025, 1602.04304, 1704.03536, 1709.00637, 1903.01382, 2112.13573, 2306.03077]**.**



Hawking radiation = the VEV of the number operator for this wave packet:

$$\langle 0 \mid b_{\Psi}^{\dagger} b_{\Psi} \mid 0 \rangle \simeq \frac{1}{2} \frac{\omega_0}{e^{4\pi a \omega_0} - 1} \int_{-\infty}^{u_{scr}} du \left| \Psi_{(\omega_0, u_0)}(u) \right|^2$$

$$u_{scr} = 4a \log(a/\ell_p)$$

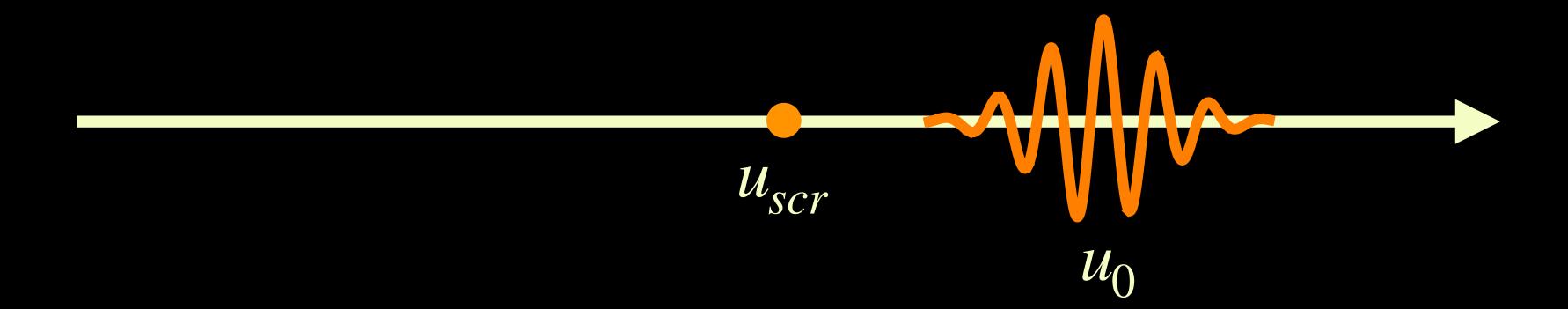


Hawking radiation = the VEV of the number operator for this wave packet:

$$\langle 0 \mid b_{\Psi}^{\dagger} b_{\Psi} \mid 0 \rangle \simeq \frac{1}{2} \frac{\omega_0}{e^{4\pi a \omega_0} - 1} \int_{-\infty}^{u_{scr}} du \left| \Psi_{(\omega_0, u_0)}(u) \right|^2$$

$$u_{scr} = 4a \log(a/\ell_p)$$

Hawking temperature is the same.



Hawking radiation = the VEV of the number operator for this wave packet:

$$\langle 0 \mid b_{\Psi}^{\dagger} b_{\Psi} \mid 0 \rangle \simeq \frac{1}{2} \frac{\omega_0}{e^{4\pi a \omega_0} - 1} \int_{-\infty}^{u_{scr}} du \left| \Psi_{(\omega_0, u_0)}(u) \right|^2$$

 $\longrightarrow 0$ when $u_0 \gg u_{scr} \equiv 2a \log(a/\ell_p)$ (scrambling time).

At late times, the wave packet has a large Δp , GUP implies a large Δx .

When Δx is much larger than a, it does not contribute to Hawking radiation.

comments

- Entanglement Island proposal [Almheiri-Engelhardt-Marolf-Maxfield 19, Penington 19] nonlocal but low-energy effective description (lower dimensions) $\text{UV description for } D \geq 4?$
- AdS/CFT duality compatibility

Applications:

- Primordial black holes as dark matter candidates. [Che-Yu's talk]
- Trans-Planckian Censorship Conjecture
 [Blamart-Laliberte-Brandenberger 23][Brandenberger-PMH-Kawai-Shao 24]

conclusion

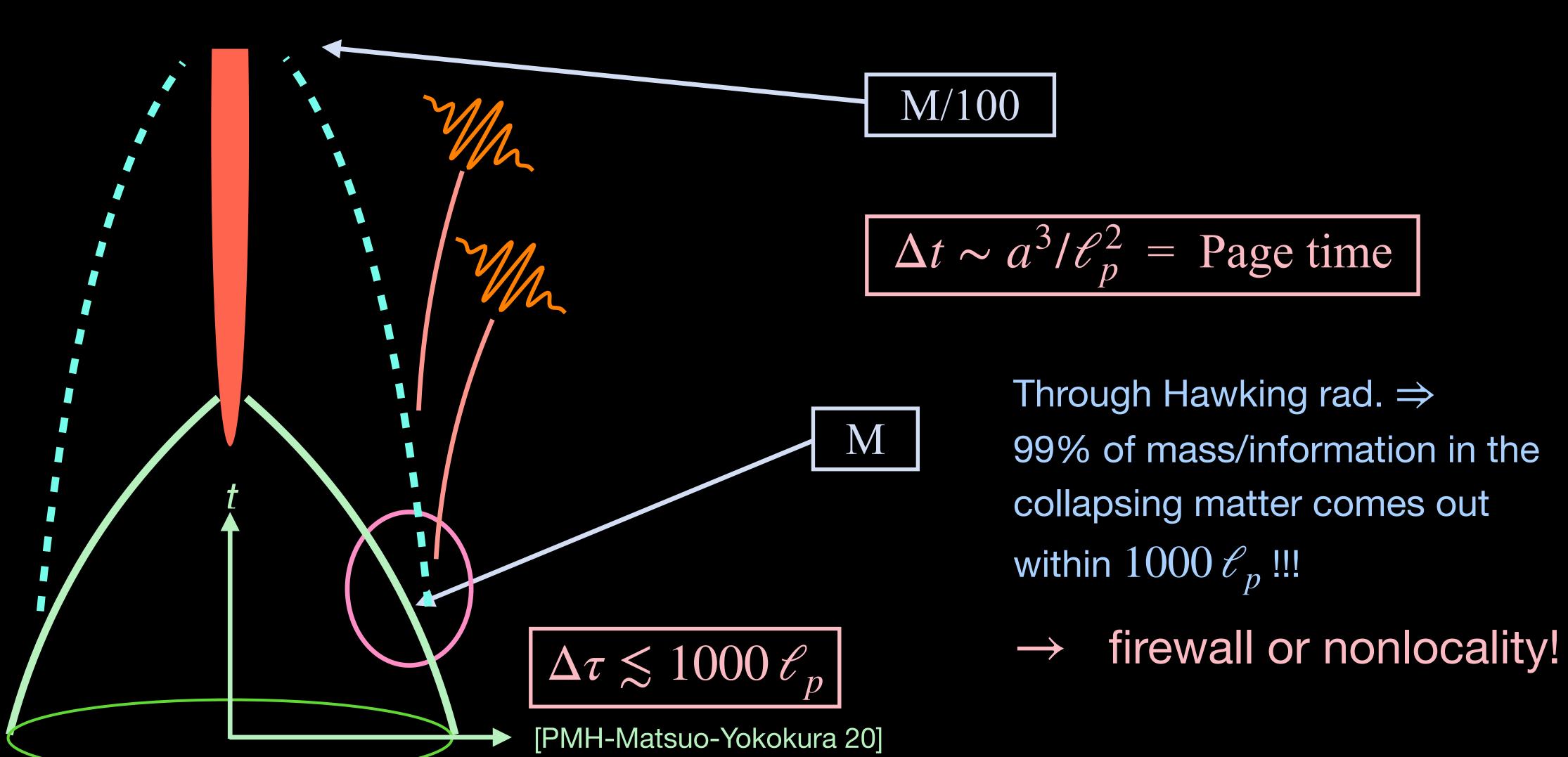
LEET breaks down at scrambling time for Hawking radiation.

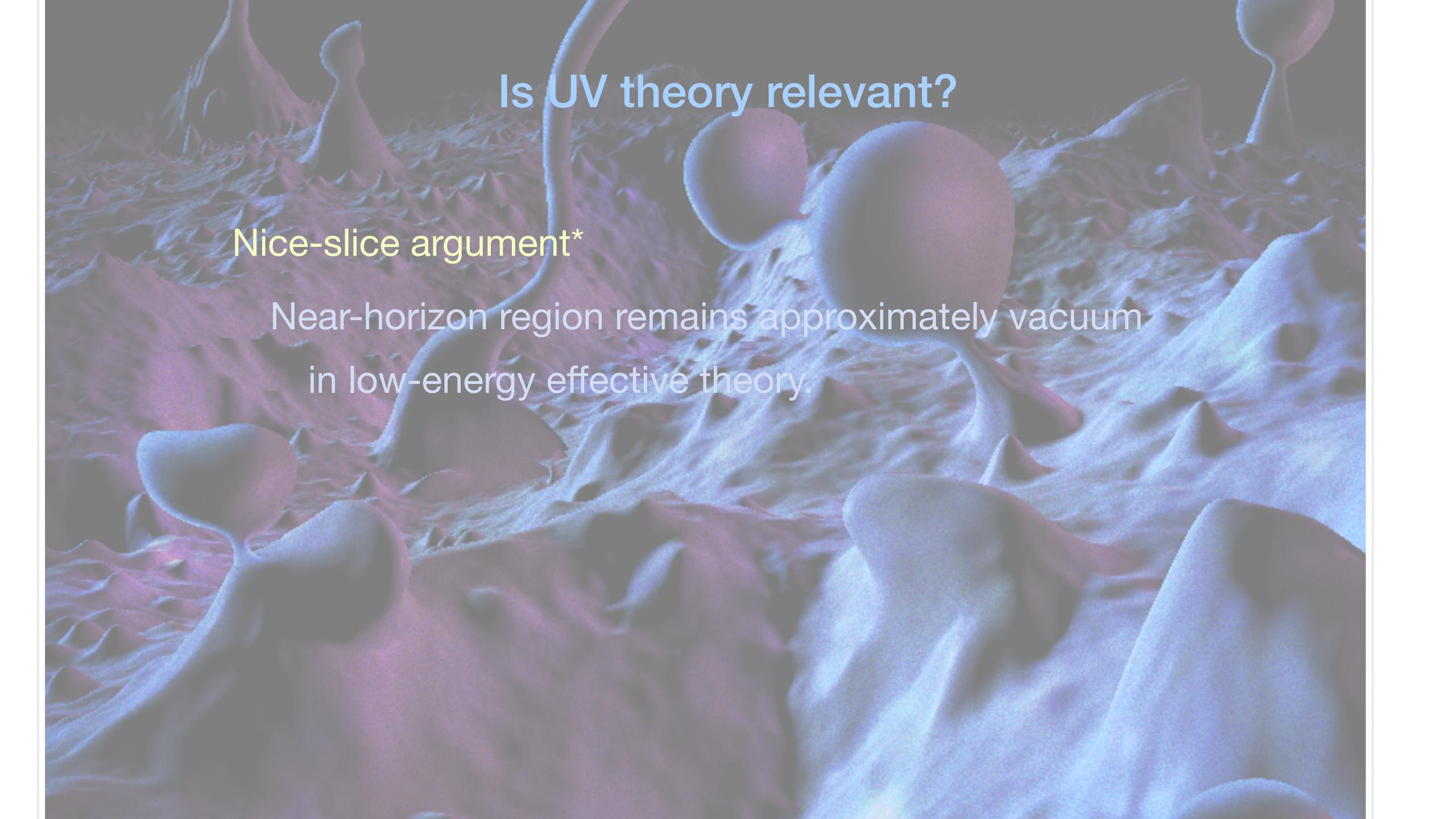
Alternative proposal

- Spacetime uncertainty turns off Hawking radiation at scrambling time.
- Black holes are essentially classical.
- Hawking temperature not modified → same BH entropy, etc.
- Spacetime uncertainty blurs the horizon.
 - → Other channels of informative radiation (cf. fuzzball)

Thank you!

Information transfer in the conventional model





nice-slice argument

[Lowe-Polchinski-Sussking-Thorlacius-Uglum 95]

The curvature $\sim \mathcal{O}(1/a)$.

Adiabatic theorem \Rightarrow

If the initial state is vacuum, excitations of energies $\lesssim \mathcal{O}(1/a)$ from time evolution.

⇒ Effective theory remains valid.

Decoupling theorem

Effective theory breaks down for trans-Planckian observations!



Nice-slice argument

Near-horizon region remains approximately vacuum in low-energy effective theory. (OK)

→ UV physics is irrelevant

LEET is not good for predicting UV events.

Q: Is Hawking radiation UV physic

Q: Trans-Planckian local Lorentz invariant?

another example: SFT

[PMH-Imamura-Kawai-Shao 23] [Chang-PMH-Lee-Shao 24]

$$S_{SFT} = \int d^D x \left[\frac{1}{2} \phi_{\alpha} (\partial^2 - m_{\alpha}^2) \phi_{\alpha} + g_{\alpha\beta\gamma} \tilde{\phi}_{\alpha} \tilde{\phi}_{\beta} \tilde{\phi}_{\gamma} + \cdots \right],$$

$$\tilde{\phi}_{\alpha} \equiv e^{\frac{1}{2}\ell^2 \partial_{\mu} \partial^{\mu}} \phi_{\alpha} \qquad \eta = (-++\cdots+)$$

→ exponential suppression of UV interactions in string theory.

$$S_{SFT} = \int d^D x \left[\tilde{\phi}_{\alpha} (\partial^2 - m_{\alpha}^2) e^{-\ell^2 \partial^2} \tilde{\phi}_{\alpha} + g_{\alpha\beta\gamma} \tilde{\phi}_{\alpha} \tilde{\phi}_{\beta} \tilde{\phi}_{\gamma} + \cdots \right]$$

- \rightarrow coupling to background suppressed for large-k modes.
- $\rightarrow \Delta U \Delta V \gtrsim \ell_E^2$ (spacetime uncertainty relation, cf. [Yoneya])

Hawking radiation turned off at scrambling time.

compatibility with AdS/CFT duality

Small AdS black hole

Before scrambling time: same classical black-hole geometry in all models.

 \leftrightarrow a thermal state with T_H at scrambling time [Danielsson et al 99])

After scrambling time: (before Hawking-Page transition)

- Conventional model: complete evaporation via HR in conventional model
- Our scenario: HR stops. If there are other decay channels ...
- → Hawking temp increases towards Planck scale but details are unknown.

Entanglement entropy formula cannot predict Page time.

It is possible to have the "same" Page curve, but different Page time.

Large AdS black hole [Maldacena 01]

No obvious paradox if the causal barrier (horizon) is removed.

compatibility with AdS/CFT duality

