

13 February 2023

Fundamental decoherence from quantum spacetime

Talk at COST CA18108 Third Training School
arXiv:2208.14119

To appear on Communications Physics
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Decoherence in Quantum Gravity

Gravitational field (or spacetime) as an **omnipresent** environment [A. Bassi et al, *Class. Quant. Grav.* 34, 193002 (2017)].

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Decoherence in Quantum Gravity

Gravitational field (or spacetime) as an **omnipresent** environment [A. Bassi et al, *Class. Quant. Grav.* 34, 193002 (2017)].

Several frameworks: Quantum clocks [R. Gambini et al, *Phys.Rev.Lett.* 93 (2004)], metric fluctuations [H.P. Breuer et al, *Class. Quant. Grav.* 26, 105012 (2009)], fluctuating minimal length and GUP models [L. Petrucciello and F. Illuminati, *Nat.Comm.* 12, 4449 (2021)], ...

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Deformed symmetries are described with **Hopf algebras**

Non-linear algebraic sector

$$[X_i, X_j] = f(\mathbf{X})$$

Coalgebra becomes relevant

$$\Delta : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{H} \otimes \mathbb{H} \text{ (coproduct)}$$

$$S : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{H} \text{ (antipode)}$$

Deformed symmetries in QM

κ -Galilei algebra in classical basis: **undeformed algebra and deformed coalgebra.**

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Undeformed coalgebra

$$\Delta P_\mu \left(|p\rangle \otimes |q\rangle \right) = (p_\mu + q_\mu) |p\rangle \otimes |q\rangle, \quad (1)$$

$$P_\mu \langle q| := \langle q| S(P_\mu) = -q_\mu \langle q|. \quad (2)$$

Deformed coalgebra

$$\Delta P_\mu \left(|p\rangle \otimes |q\rangle \right) = (p_\mu \oplus q_\mu) |p\rangle \otimes |q\rangle, \quad (3)$$

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Deformed symmetries in QM

κ -Galilei algebra in classical basis: [undeformed algebra and deformed coalgebra](#).

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Non trivial structures on the coalgebra are

$$\Delta P_0 = P_0 \otimes \mathbb{1} + \mathbb{1} \otimes P_0 + \frac{1}{\kappa} P_n \otimes P^n, \quad S(P_0) = -P_0 + \frac{1}{\kappa} P^2. \quad (5)$$

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$$\text{ad}_A(B) := (id \otimes S)\Delta A \diamond B, \quad (a \otimes b) \diamond O := aOb. \quad (6)$$

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If coalgebra structures are trivial

$$\text{ad}_A(B) = (id \otimes S) \underbrace{(A \otimes \mathbb{1} + \mathbb{1} \otimes A)}_{\Delta A} \diamond B = (A \otimes \mathbb{1} - \underbrace{\mathbb{1} \otimes A}_{S(A)=-A}) \diamond B = [A, B]. \quad (7)$$

Density operator time evolution

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These requirements are met with

$$i \partial_t \rho = \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \text{ad}_{P_0}(\rho) - [\text{ad}_{P_0}(\rho)]^\dagger \right\}. \quad (8)$$

leading to

$$\partial_t \rho = -i [P_0, \rho] - \frac{1}{2\kappa} \left(\rho \mathbf{P}^2 + \mathbf{P}^2 \rho - 2 P_n \rho P^n \right). \quad (9)$$

Decoherence time and fundamental constraint on the mass

Free particle solution in momentum basis is

$$\langle \mathbf{p} | \rho | \mathbf{q} \rangle := \rho_{pq}(t) = \rho_{pq}(0) \exp \left\{ -it[E(p) - E(q)] - \frac{t}{2\kappa} (\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q})^2 \right\}. \quad (10)$$

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Off-diagonal coherences vanish after a **decoherence time**

$$\tau_D = \frac{2\kappa}{(\delta\mathbf{p})^2}. \quad (11)$$

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“Lifetime” of a state of a quantum system

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$$\tau_c \gtrsim (\delta E)^{-1}. \quad (12)$$

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Decoherence not observable (“quantumness is preserved”) if $\tau_D \geq \tau_c$

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With $E = (2m)^{-1}\mathbf{p}^2$, from (13) and for **momentum localized** states, $\frac{\delta p}{p} \ll 1$

$$m \lesssim \kappa. \quad (14)$$

Phenomenological opportunities?

Corrections to the **oscillation probability** formula

$$P(\beta \rightarrow \alpha) = \sum_{i,j} U_{\beta i}^* U_{\beta j} U_{\alpha j}^* U_{\alpha i} e^{-i \left[E(\mathbf{p}_i)t - \mathbf{p}_i \cdot \mathbf{x} \right] + i \left[E(\mathbf{p}_j)t - \mathbf{p}_j \cdot \mathbf{x} \right]} e^{-\frac{t}{2\kappa} (\mathbf{p}_i - \mathbf{p}_j)^2} . \quad (15)$$

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$$\Phi_{\nu\alpha}^D = \sum_{\beta} P(\beta \rightarrow \alpha) \Phi_{\nu\beta}^S . \quad (16)$$

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Corrections to the **amount of decoherence** of a system with respect to an environment. For optomechanical cavities

$$\text{Dec}(A | E) = \frac{1}{4} \left\{ 1 + \sqrt{1 - \exp \left[-4(2\bar{n} + 1) \frac{g_0^2}{\omega_m^2} \sin \left(\frac{\omega_m t}{2} \right) \right]} \right\} , \quad (17)$$

with

$$\bar{n} = \frac{k_B T}{\hbar \omega_m} + \frac{2Q}{\omega_m \tau_D} . \quad (18)$$

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- From the decoherence time, a **fundamental constraint** on the mass of quantum systems arises.
- **Phenomenology**: neutrino oscillation, table-top experiments with optomechanical cavities.
- Can this framework be extended to field theories? **Primordial perturbations decoherence...**



Thank you!

Interaction with the Environment

von Neumann measurement:

$$|o_n\rangle \otimes |R\rangle \mapsto |o_n\rangle \otimes |a_n\rangle \Rightarrow |\psi\rangle \otimes |R\rangle \mapsto \sum_n c_n |o_n\rangle \otimes |a_n\rangle, \quad (19)$$

$|a_n\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_A, |o_n\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_S.$

Two-level system: $|\psi_i\rangle \otimes |E_0\rangle \mapsto |\psi_i\rangle \otimes |E_i\rangle, i = 1, 2.$ Environment-system entanglement emerges dynamically

$$|\psi\rangle \otimes |E_0\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(|\psi_1\rangle + |\psi_2\rangle \right) \otimes |E_0\rangle \mapsto \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(|\psi_1\rangle \otimes |E_1\rangle + |\psi_2\rangle \otimes |E_2\rangle \right). \quad (20)$$

The density operator of the system is

$$\rho_S = \text{tr}_E \{ \rho \} = \frac{1}{2} \left(|\psi_1\rangle \langle \psi_1| + |\psi_2\rangle \langle \psi_2| + |\psi_1\rangle \langle \psi_2| \langle E_1|E_2\rangle + |\psi_2\rangle \langle \psi_1| \langle E_2|E_1\rangle \right). \quad (21)$$

For macroscopic systems $|E_i\rangle = \prod_{\alpha=1}^N |e_{\alpha}^{(i)}\rangle, \langle e_{\alpha}^{(1)} | e_{\alpha}^{(2)} \rangle = \epsilon \lesssim 1,$ thus $\langle E_1|E_2\rangle \sim \epsilon^N \sim 0$

Example of system-environment interaction

Two-level system $\{|0\rangle, |1\rangle\}$; environment composed of N two-level systems $\{|\uparrow\rangle_i, |\downarrow\rangle_i\}$.

$$\hat{H}_{\text{int}} = \frac{1}{2} \hat{\sigma}_z \otimes \hat{E}, \quad \hat{E} := \sum_{i=1}^N g_i \hat{\sigma}_z^{(i)}. \quad (22)$$

$2^N - 1$ energy levels for E given by $|n\rangle = |\uparrow\rangle_i |\downarrow\rangle_i \dots |\uparrow\rangle_i$ with $\varepsilon_n = \sum_{i=1}^N (-1)^{n_i} g_i$.

$$e^{-it\hat{H}_{\text{int}}} |\psi\rangle = e^{-it\hat{H}_{\text{int}}} (a|0\rangle + b|1\rangle) \otimes \sum_{i=1}^{2^N-1} c_n |n\rangle = a|0\rangle |\varepsilon_0(t)\rangle + b|1\rangle |\varepsilon_1(t)\rangle, \quad (23)$$

with $|\varepsilon_0(t)\rangle = |\varepsilon_1(-t)\rangle = \sum_{i=1}^{2^N-1} c_n e^{-it\varepsilon_n/2}$.

The decoherence parameter

$$r(t) = \langle \varepsilon_1(t) | \varepsilon_0(t) \rangle = \sum_n |c_n|^2 e^{-i\varepsilon_n t} \Rightarrow \boxed{\langle |r(t)| \rangle \sim 2^{-N}}. \quad (24)$$

Recurrence time τ_{rec} exists since N is always finite. $g_i = g \forall i$ and $\sum_{i=1}^{2^N-1} c_n |n\rangle = \otimes_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|\downarrow\rangle_i + |\uparrow\rangle_i)$

give $r(t) = [\cos(gt)]^N$ with $\tau_{\text{rec}} = \frac{\pi}{g}$. Highly improbable, typically $\tau_{\text{rec}} \propto N!$

Environmental superselection

Interaction with the environment selects the preferred basis.

$$|\psi_{\pm}\rangle \otimes |E_0\rangle \mapsto \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(|\psi_1\rangle \otimes |E_1\rangle \pm |\psi_2\rangle \otimes |E_2\rangle \right). \quad (25)$$

$|\psi_{\pm}\rangle$ get entangled with the environment.

Superselected states are the ones that get **least entangled** with the environment ($|\psi_i\rangle$).

Typically $\hat{H} = \hat{H}_S + \hat{H}_E + \hat{H}_{\text{int}}$.

Quantum measurement limit: $\hat{H} \approx \hat{H}_{\text{int}}$. Typically $\hat{H}_{\text{int}} = \hat{S} \otimes \hat{E}$, thus eigenstates of \hat{S} get selected

$$e^{-it\hat{S} \otimes \hat{E}} |s_i\rangle \otimes |E_0\rangle = |s_i\rangle \otimes e^{-it\lambda_i \hat{E}} |E_0\rangle := |s_i\rangle \otimes |E_i(t)\rangle. \quad (26)$$

Quantum limit: $\hat{H} \approx \hat{H}_S$. Constants of motion of S (energy) get selected.

Lindblad equation

In general $\hat{\rho}_S(t) = \text{tr}_E \left\{ \hat{U}(t) \hat{\rho}_{S,E}(0) \hat{U}^\dagger(t) \right\}$. Master equations give approximations

$$\partial_t \hat{\rho}_S(t) = -i[\hat{H}_S, \hat{\rho}_S] + \hat{D}[\hat{\rho}_S(t)]. \quad (27)$$

Lindblad equation: most general master equation preserving the **positivity** of $\hat{\rho}_S$.

$$\partial_t \hat{\rho} = -i[\hat{H}_S, \hat{\rho}_S] - \frac{1}{2} g^{mn} \left(\hat{Q}_m \hat{Q}_n \hat{\rho} + \hat{\rho} \hat{Q}_m \hat{Q}_n - 2 \hat{Q}_m \hat{\rho} \hat{Q}_n \right), \quad (28)$$

with $g^{mn} \in \mathbb{R}$ and $u_m u_n g^{mn} \geq 0, \forall u$.

κ -Galilei as deformed symmetry group

κ -Poincaré algebra in classical basis is **undeformed** while the relevant coalgebra structures are

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta P_0 &= P_0 \otimes \Pi_0 + \Pi_0^{-1} \otimes P_0 + \frac{1}{\kappa} P_n \Pi_0^{-1} \otimes P^n, \quad \Delta P_n = P_n \otimes \mathbb{1} + \mathbb{1} \otimes P_n \\ S(P_0) &= -P_0 + \frac{1}{\kappa} \mathbf{P}^2 \Pi_0^{-1}, \quad S(P_i) = -P_i \Pi_0^{-1} \\ \Pi_0 &= \frac{1}{\kappa} P_0 + \sqrt{\mathbb{1} - \frac{1}{\kappa^2} P^\mu P_\mu}, \quad \Pi_0^{-1} = \frac{-\frac{1}{\kappa} P_0 + \sqrt{\mathbb{1} - \frac{1}{\kappa^2} P^\mu P_\mu}}{\mathbb{1} - \frac{1}{\kappa^2} P^\mu P_\mu}\end{aligned}\quad (29)$$

The contraction [A. Ballesteros et al, *Phys.Lett.B* 805, 135461 (2020)] is carried out with

$$\mathbf{N} \mapsto c^{-1} \mathbf{N}, \quad \mathbf{P} \mapsto c^{-1} \mathbf{P}, \quad \kappa \mapsto c^{-2} \kappa \quad (30)$$

and $c \rightarrow \infty$.

The algebra becomes the standard Galilei algebra. Non trivial structures on the coalgebra are

$$\Delta P_0 = P_0 \otimes \mathbb{1} + \mathbb{1} \otimes P_0 + \frac{1}{\kappa} P_n \otimes P^n, \quad S(P_0) = -P_0 + \frac{1}{\kappa} \mathbf{P}^2. \quad (31)$$

Details of the contraction

The contraction

$$\mathbf{N} \mapsto c^{-1}\mathbf{N} \ , \ \mathbf{P} \mapsto c^{-1}\mathbf{P} \ , \ \mathbf{K} \mapsto c^{-2}\mathbf{K} \quad (32)$$

gives

$$\Pi_0 = \frac{1}{c^2\mathbf{K}}P_0 + \sqrt{\mathbb{1} - \frac{1}{c^4\mathbf{K}^2}(P_0^2 - c^2\mathbf{P}^2)} \rightarrow \mathbb{1} \ , \ \Pi_0^{-1} = \frac{-\frac{1}{c^2\mathbf{K}}P_0 + \sqrt{\mathbb{1} - \frac{1}{c^4\mathbf{K}^2}(P_0^2 - c^2\mathbf{P}^2)}}{\mathbb{1} - \frac{1}{c^4\mathbf{K}^2}(P_0^2 - c^2\mathbf{P}^2)} \rightarrow \mathbb{1} \ , \quad (33)$$

thus

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta P_0 &= P_0 \otimes \Pi_0 + \Pi_0^{-1} \otimes P_0 + \frac{1}{c^2\mathbf{K}}cP_n \Pi_0^{-1} \otimes cP^n \rightarrow P_0 \otimes \mathbb{1} + \mathbb{1} \otimes P_0 + \frac{1}{\mathbf{K}}P_n \otimes P^n \ , \\ S(P_0) &= -P_0 + \frac{1}{c^2\mathbf{K}}c^2\mathbf{P}^2 \Pi_0^{-1} \rightarrow -P_0 + \frac{1}{\mathbf{K}}\mathbf{P}^2 \ , \quad cS(P_i) = -cP_i \Pi_0^{-1} \Rightarrow S(P_i) = -P_i \ . \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$