Accelerated observers and Planck-scale kinematics

Michele Arzano

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Upon introduction of a "brick wall" regulator obtain entropy density $\sim 1/L_P^2$

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The common view is that **quantum properties of spacetime** are responsible for a **finite horizon entropy density** in the same way quantization of the electromagnetic field leads to a finite **black-body entropy**

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Work in collaboration with Master's student M. Laudonio (Phys. Rev. D 97, no. 8, 085004 (2018))

Four-velocity of observer with acceleration $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$

 $U^{\mu} = (\cosh \alpha \tau, \sinh \alpha \tau, 0, 0)$

Lorentz boost by $\eta = \alpha \tau$ of four-velocity of static Minkowski observer $U^{\mu} = (1, 0, 0, 0)$

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How do we describe accelerated observers with different accelerations?

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Using a **dilation** generated by $D = -i x^{\mu} \partial_{\mu}$: a finite transformation of parameter δ

$$(t,x)
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Rindler space

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Define spatial Rindler coordinate ξ in terms of the dilation parameter $\delta = a\xi$ (with 1/a = [lenght])

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Weyl-Poincaré algebra in 1+1 dimensions

$$\begin{split} & \left[P_t, P_x \right] = 0, \quad \left[D, N \right] = 0 \\ & \left[N, P_t \right] = i P_x, \quad \left[N, P_x \right] = i P_t \\ & \left[D, P_t \right] = i P_t, \quad \left[D, P_x \right] = i P_x \end{split}$$

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Besides usual reps in terms of $P_{t,x} = i\partial_{t,x}$ we have an **alternative reps** in terms of Rindler coordinates ξ, η

$$P_{\xi} = aD = i\partial_{\xi}, \quad P_{\eta} = aN = i\partial_{\eta}$$

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Note the role of acceleration scale a in order to get the right dimensions for P_{ξ} and P_{η}

Aside: the Unruh effect without space-time

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The simplest non-abelian Lie algebra

 $\left[D,P\right]=iP$

relationship between **boundary** and **thermal effects** from representation theory (work with Kowalski-Glikman: arXiv:1804.10550)

Rindler coordinates and reps of the Weyl-Poincaré algebra

Representation of the Weyl-Poincaré generators in terms of $(\partial_{\xi}, \partial_{\eta})$

$$P_{\xi} = i\partial_{\xi}$$

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$$P_{t} = ie^{-a\xi}(\cosh a\eta \,\partial_{\eta} - \sinh a\eta \,\partial_{\xi})$$

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Rindler mass shell obtained from mass Casimir

$$\mathcal{C} = P_0^2 - P_x^2 = e^{-2a\xi} (P_\eta^2 - P_\xi^2),$$
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• At $\xi = -\infty$ i.e. on the light cone x = |t| the photon's frequency will appear infinitely blueshifted (in analogy with Schwarzschild horizon)

The **Rindler horizon** is described by an *infinite contraction* generated by D

Number of modes of a massless scalar field in a 3D box of size L

• Nodes on the wall of box

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 where $i = 1, 2, 3$, $N_i = 1, 2, 3, ...$

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by trivial integration leads to the known result for density of states in Minkowski space

$$n(E)=\frac{L^3E^3}{6\pi^2}$$

used to derive all thermodynamical properties of a free massless field.

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Density of states: 3+1 Minkowski vs. Rindler

$$dn_M = rac{L^3}{2\pi^2}k^2dk$$
 vs $dn_R = rac{L^2 k_\perp k_\xi}{2\pi^2} dk_\perp d\xi$

Using Rindler dispersion relation $E^2 = k^2 + e^{2a\xi}k_{\perp}^2$ we integrate dn_R over k_{\perp}

$$dn_R(\xi) = \frac{L^2}{2\pi^2} d\xi \int_0^{Ee^{-a\xi}} dk_\perp k_\perp \sqrt{E^2 - k_\perp^2 e^{2a\xi}} = \frac{E^3 L^2}{6\pi^2} e^{-2a\xi} d\xi.$$

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With a "brick wall" at ξ_{min} we obtain density of states as function of energy

$$n_R(E) = \frac{E^3 L^2}{6\pi^2} \int_{\xi_{min}}^{\log(aR)/a} d\xi \, e^{-2a\xi} = \frac{E^3 L^2}{12\pi^2} \frac{1}{a} \left[e^{-2a\xi_{min}} - \frac{1}{(aR)^2} \right]$$

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From log $Q = \beta \int_0^\infty dE \frac{n(E)}{e^{\beta E} - 1}$ calculate **entropy**, which scales as L^2 !

$$S = \frac{\pi^2}{45} \frac{L^2}{a\beta^3} \left[e^{-2a\xi_{min}} - \frac{1}{(aR)^2} \right] = S_{wall} + \text{IR box contribution} \,,$$

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For $\beta \sim 1/T_U \sim 2\pi/a$, ξ_{min} can be fixed \Rightarrow Bekenstein-Hawking entropy density $\sigma_{wall} = S_{wall}/L^2 = \frac{1}{4L_p^2}$

The covariant recipe for counting states

State counting can be recast in a covariant framework by considering state space of a massless relativistic field

covariant momentum-space volume

 $dn \sim 2E dt dx^3 \delta(t) \times$

 $d^4 p \,\delta(\mathcal{C}) \,\theta(E)$

covariant space volume

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covariant space volume

In Minkwoski space, integrating over a spatial volume $V = L^3$

$$n_M(E) = \frac{V}{(2\pi)^3} \int_E d^4 p \, 2p_0 \, \delta(p^2) \, \theta(p_0) = \frac{L^3 E^3}{6\pi^2}$$

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For a Rindler field

$$n_{R}(E) = \frac{V_{\perp}}{(2\pi)^{3}} \int_{\mathbb{R}} d\xi \int dp_{\eta} dp_{\xi} dp_{\perp}^{2} 2p_{\eta} e^{-2a\xi} \,\delta(\mathcal{C})\theta(p_{\eta}) = \frac{V_{\perp}}{(2\pi)^{3}} \frac{4\pi}{3} E^{3} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\xi \, e^{-2a\xi}$$

The Weyl-Poincaré algebra pw(3, 1) in 3 + 1 dimensions $[P_{\mu}, P_{\nu}] = 0$, $[P_{\mu}, M_{\rho\nu}] = i(\eta_{\mu\rho}P_{\nu} - \eta_{\mu\nu}P_{\rho})$ $[M_{\mu\nu}, M_{\rho\sigma}] = i(\eta_{\mu\sigma}M_{\nu\rho} - \eta_{\mu\sigma}M_{\nu\rho} + \eta_{\nu\rho}M_{\mu\rho} - \eta_{\nu\rho}M_{\mu\sigma})$ $[D, P_{\mu}] = iP_{\mu}$, $[D, M_{\mu\nu}] = 0$

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The resulting twisted generators

$$P^{\mathcal{F}}_{\mu} = rac{P_{\mu}}{1 + \ell P_0}, \quad M^{\mathcal{F}}_{\mu\nu} = M_{\mu\nu}, \quad D^{\mathcal{F}} = D_{\mu\nu}$$

very similar to the "non-linear" redefinition of translation generators used by Magueijo and Smolin in their early DSR model (Phys. Rev. Lett. 88, 190403 (2002))

The twisted Weyl-Poincaré algebra (continued)

In terms of the twisted commutator

$$[W^{\mathcal{F}}, V^{\mathcal{F}}]_{\mathcal{F}} = W^{\mathcal{F}}V^{\mathcal{F}} - (\bar{R}^{\alpha}(V))^{\mathcal{F}}(\bar{R}_{\alpha}(W))^{\mathcal{F}}.$$

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This translates in the following deformed commutators

$$[M_{\mu\nu}^{\mathcal{F}}, P_{\rho}^{\mathcal{F}}] = i \left(\eta_{\rho\nu} P_{\mu}^{\mathcal{F}} - \eta_{\rho\mu} P_{\nu}^{\mathcal{F}} \right) - i \ell \delta_{\mu 0} \delta_{\nu i} P_{\rho}^{\mathcal{F}} P_{i}^{\mathcal{F}}$$
$$[D^{\mathcal{F}}, P_{\mu}^{\mathcal{F}}] = i P_{\mu}^{\mathcal{F}} - i \ell P_{\mu}^{\mathcal{F}} P_{0}^{\mathcal{F}}$$

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The mass Casimir $C = P_{\mu}P^{\mu}$ in terms of the twisted translation generators $P_{\mu}^{\mathcal{F}}$ becomes

$$\mathcal{L}^{\mathcal{F}} = rac{\left(\mathcal{P}_{\mu} \mathcal{P}^{\mu}
ight)^{\mathcal{F}}}{(1 - \ell \mathcal{P}_{0}^{\mathcal{F}})^{2}}.$$

At the algebraic level this is all we need to go and play the "DSR game"

DSR finite boosts

Twisted DSR finite boosts in the 1-direction

From the deformed algebra we have

$$\frac{d\omega}{d\phi} = -i[N_1, \omega] = k_1(1 - \ell\omega) \qquad \qquad \omega(\phi) = \frac{\omega^0 \cosh \phi + k_1^0 \sinh \phi}{A}$$
$$\frac{dk_1}{d\phi} = -i[N_1, k_1] = (\omega - \ell k_1 k^1) \qquad \Longrightarrow \qquad k_1(\phi) = \frac{\omega^0 \sinh \phi + k_1^0 \cosh \phi}{A}$$
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where
$$A = 1 - \ell \omega^0 + \ell \omega^0 \cosh \phi + \ell k_1^0 \sinh \phi$$

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Boosts saturate at the Planck scale!

$$\lim_{\phi \to \infty} \omega(\phi) = \frac{1}{\ell} \ , \ \lim_{\phi \to \infty} k_1 = \frac{1}{\ell} \ , \ \lim_{\phi \to \infty} k_i = 0$$

Twisted dilations

The same procedure can be used to derive the twisted dilation transformation

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\omega}{d\delta} &= -i[D,\omega] = \omega(1-\ell\omega) \\ \frac{dk_i}{d\delta} &= -i[D,k_i] = k_i(1-\ell\omega) \end{aligned} \implies \begin{aligned} \omega(\delta) &= \frac{\omega^0}{\omega^0\ell + (1-\omega^0\ell)e^{-\delta}} \\ k_i(\delta) &= \frac{k_i^0}{\omega^0\ell + (1-\omega^0\ell)e^{-\delta}} \end{aligned}$$

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Could this act as a "covariant brick wall"?

Warm up: mode counting for a field in twisted Poincaré

$$n(E) = \frac{V}{(2\pi)^3} \int_E d\mu(p) \, 2p_0 \, \delta(\mathcal{C}) \, \theta(p_0) \,,$$

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To LIV or not to LIV? (Gubitosi and Magueijo, Class. Quant. Grav. 33, no. 11, 115021 (2016))



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Covariant under deformed boosts

$$d\mu(p)_{\rm LIV} = d^4 p$$

$$d\mu(p)_{\rm C} = \frac{d^4 p}{(1 - \ell p_0)^5}$$

The resulting density of states are

$$n(E)_{\rm LIV} = \frac{2V}{(2\pi)^2} \left[\frac{E^3}{3} - \frac{\ell E^4}{2} + \frac{\ell^2 E^5}{5} \right]$$

$$n(E)_{\rm C} = \frac{V}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{1}{\ell^3} \left[\frac{\ell E(3\ell E - 2)}{(1 - \ell E)^2} - 2\log(1 - \ell E) \right]$$

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However using the LIV measure

$$\lim_{E \to 1/\ell} n(E)_{\rm LIV} = \frac{V}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{1}{15\ell^3} \,,$$

we have a finite number of states all the way up to the Planck scale

Deformed Rindler: brick-wall from twist?

Look at twisted generalization of

$$n(E) = rac{V_{\perp}}{(2\pi)^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}} d\xi \int dp_{\eta} dp_{\xi} dp_{\perp}^2 2p_{\eta} e^{-2a\xi} \,\delta(\mathcal{C})\theta(p_{\eta}) \,.$$

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Sparing you the gruesome details the final result is

$$n(E) = \frac{V_{\perp}}{(2\pi)^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}} d\xi \int d\mu(p_{\eta}, p_{\xi}, p_{\perp}) \frac{p_{\eta}(1 - \ell p_{\eta})^2 e^{2a\xi} \delta(p_{\eta} - \omega_p)}{(\ell p_{\eta} + (1 - \ell p_{\eta})e^{a\xi})(p_{\eta}e^{a\xi} + \ell p_{\xi}^2(1 - e^{a\xi}))} \theta(p_{\eta})$$

where ω_p = on-shell energy obtained from deformed Rindler dispersion relation

$$\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{F}} = rac{e^{-2a\xi}}{(1-\ell P^{\mathcal{F}}_{\eta})^2} \left[-(P^{\mathcal{F}}_{\eta})^2 + (P^{\mathcal{F}}_{\xi})^2 + (P^{\mathcal{F}}_{\perp})^2 (P^{\mathcal{F}}_{\eta}\ell + (1-\ell P^{\mathcal{F}}_{\eta})e^{a\xi})^2
ight]$$

Brick-wall from twist? Only if LIV!

Calculate density of states in fully covariant picture

$$n(E)_{\rm C} = rac{V_{\perp}}{(2\pi)^2} rac{e^{-2a\xi_{min}}}{a} \left[rac{E^3}{3} - rac{\ell E^4}{2} + rac{\ell^2 E^5}{5}
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If we LIV we get a finite density of states! $n(E)_{\rm LIV} = -\frac{V_{\perp}}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{1}{6a} \frac{1}{\ell^3} \log(1 - \ell E),$ a bitter win...

Bekenstein-Hawking entropy from "twisted brick wall"

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Evaluate the entropy associated to $n(E)_{LIV}$

Consider the logarithm of the deformed partition function

$$\log Q = \beta \int_0^{1/\ell} dE \, \frac{n(E)}{e^{\frac{\beta E}{1-\ell E}} - 1}$$

(deformed B-E distribution natural choice determined by the twist map $P_{\mu}^{\mathcal{F}} = \frac{P_{\mu}}{1+\ell P_0}$)

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Setting
$$\beta = \frac{1}{T_U} = \frac{2\pi}{a}$$
 we obtain

$$S_{\rm LIV} = \frac{V_{\perp}}{144\pi\ell^2} - \frac{V_{\perp}a}{\ell}\frac{\zeta(3)}{32\pi^4} + \frac{V_{\perp}a^2}{2160\pi} + \mathcal{O}(\ell)$$
at leading order, with $\ell = \frac{L_P}{6\sqrt{\pi}}$ leads to the **Bekenstein-Hawking entropy**...

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WHAT'S NEXT?

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- Rindler space locally describes observers under a uniform gravitational field...
- Planckian aspects of **Unruh and (Hawking)** quantum radiance.