Postquantum stochastic semiclassical gravity: world without Schrödinger cats

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Supports by: National Research, Development and Innovation Office for "Frontline" Research Excellence Program (Grant No. KKP133827) and John Templeton Foundation (Grant 62099).

?? June 2024

Abstract

Standard Semiclassical Gravity

Nonrelativistic limit (Schrödinger-Newton Eq.)

Hybrid Classical-Quantum Coupling — Foundations

Spontaneous collapse of Schrödinger Cats (D.,Penrose)

DP Gravity-Related Spontaneous Collapse (D.)

On spontaneous measurement

Postquantum stochastic semiclassical gravity

Relativistic Semiclassical Gravity?

Thanks for your attention! You can ask questions if you like!

Abstract

Postquantum stochastic gravity is a proposal to improve semiclassical gravity which violates causality and Born's statistical interpretation. Principles of quantum foundations explain the cause of such fundamental anomalies and show how to get rid of them. The solution might be built on the non-relativistic theory of spontaneous wavefunction collapse, eliminating Schrödinger cat states. Such "postquantum" theory is captivating conceptionally, exists formally, but its relativistic covariance could hit a wall.

Accordingly, I explain the principles of postquantum gravity in the nonrelativistic limit and discuss the obstacles of relativistic extension. Postquantum proposal has three equivalent formalisms: i) coupled stochastic processes for the classical geometry and Ψ of quantized matter, ii) hybrid classical-quantum master equation, iii) path integrals. Here I use the most instructive formalism i).

Standard Semiclassical Gravity

Powerful effective hybrid dynamics for $(\mathrm{g}_{ab}, |\Psi\rangle)$:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{d|\Psi\rangle}{dt} &= -\frac{i}{\hbar}\hat{H}[\mathrm{g}]|\Psi\rangle \qquad \textit{action (nonlinear)} \\
\mathrm{G}_{ab} &= \frac{8\pi G}{c^4}\langle\Psi|\hat{\mathrm{T}}_{ab}|\Psi\rangle \quad \textit{backaction}
\end{aligned}
$$

Breakdown of causality and Born statistical interpretation!
unrelated to relativity (and gravitation, btw)
but to fundamentals of quantum mechanics

Hence we discuss the nonrelativistic limit first.
And we (try to) go back to general relativity after it.

Nonrelativistic limit (Schrödinger-Newton Eq.)

$\hat{\mu} = \hat{\mathrm{T}}_{00}/c^2 =$ quantized field of nonrelativistic mass density

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d|\Psi\rangle}{dt} &= -\frac{i}{\hbar}\left(\hat{H}_0 + \int \hat{\mu}\Phi dV\right)|\Psi\rangle \quad \textit{action (nonlinear)} \\ \nabla^2\Phi &= -4\pi G\langle\Psi|\hat{\mu}|\Psi\rangle \quad \textit{backaction} \end{aligned}$$

Breakdown of causality and Born statistical interpretation is caused by the nonlinear term in the Schrödinger equation, semiclassicality of coupling $\langle\Psi|\hat{\mu}|\Psi\rangle$ should be blamed.

Surprize: Quantumgravity is thought to be relevant at extreme large energies or curvatures. But SNE shows that both quantumness and gravity can become relevant nonrelativistically for large masses, already for nanogram's. Doors open, "Newtonian Qauntumgravity" for theorists, "Quantumgravity in the Lab" for experimentalists.

Hybrid Classical-Quantum Coupling — Foundations

Action of C on Q can be trivial (parametric)
Backaction of Q on C is a major issue.

About a quantum system, quantum measurement is the only mean to consistently define classical variables.

About an individual quantum system:
classical numbers like $\langle\Psi|\hat{\mu}|\Psi\rangle$ are not classical variables but the random measurement outcomes are.

Action of quantized matter on classical gravity is only possible via the random outcomes of quantum measurement on $\hat{\mu}$ (instead of $\langle\Psi|\hat{\mu}|\Psi\rangle$) which contains a stochastic term:

$$\mu^{\mathsf{signal}} = \langle\Psi|\hat{\mu}|\Psi\rangle + \delta\mu^{\mathsf{noise}}$$

Consistent hybrid classical-quantum coupling is irreversible.
Now, who is measuring $\hat{\mu}$?

Spontaneous collapse of Schrödinger Cats (D.,Penrose)

$$|CAT\rangle = \frac{|\text{LEFT}\rangle + |\text{RIGHT}\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \rightarrow \begin{cases} |\text{LEFT}\rangle \\ \text{or} \\ |\text{RIGHT}\rangle \end{cases}$$

SPONTANEOUS COLLAPSE RATE:

$$\frac{1}{\tau} = \frac{V_G^i - V_G^f}{\hbar}$$

V_G^i, V_G^f: gravitational self-energy before/after collapse

Negligible effect for small, dominant for large masses:

$\tau_{1fg} \sim 10^6 s$ but $\tau_{1mg} \sim \mu s$.

DP Gravity-Related Spontaneous Collapse (D.)

Generalizaing spontaneous collapse of Schrödinger Cats

Time-continuous spontaneous collapse of massive macrosopic superpositions

Concept: spontaneous monitoring of $\hat{\mu}$

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{d|\Psi\rangle}{dt} &= -\frac{i}{\hbar}\hat{H}_0|\Psi\rangle \\
&\quad + \textit{stochastic terms of monitoring } \hat{\mu} \\
\mu^{signal} &= \langle\Psi|\hat{\mu}|\Psi\rangle + \delta\mu^{noise}
\end{aligned}
$$

$\mu^{signal}(\mathbf{r}, t)$ is diffusing around $\langle\Psi(t)|\hat{\mu}(\mathbf{r})|\Psi(t)\rangle$.

$$
\textit{Diffusion matrix} : D_\mu(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{s}) = -4\pi\frac{\hbar}{G}\nabla^2\delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{s})
$$

EXPLAINS HOW QM GOES CLASSICAL IN THE MACRO-WORLD “WITHOUT SCH CATS”

On spontaneous measurement

Spontaneous/objective measurement/collapse/reduction
acts on $|\Psi\rangle$ and yields measurement outcome
just like standard quantum measurement does
but without assuming the presence of measurement device.

Like standard measurements,
it is stochastic, irreversible, violates conservation rules,
non-relativistic, resists to relativistic extension

Spontaneous monitoring (time-continuous generalization)
acts on $|\Psi\rangle$ and yields measurement outcome (signal),
just like standard quantum monitoring does
but without assuming the presence of lab devices.

Postquantum stochastic semiclassical gravity

Causality and Born statistical interpretation restored
Reversibility lost

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d|\Psi\rangle}{dt} &= -\frac{i}{\hbar}\left(\hat{H}_0 + \int \hat{\mu}\Phi dV\right)|\Psi\rangle \\ &\quad + stochastic\ terms\ of\ monitoring\ \hat{\mu} \\ \nabla^2\Phi &= -4\pi G\left(\langle\Psi|\hat{\mu}|\Psi\rangle + \delta\mu^{noise}\right)\end{aligned}$$

Feedback of solution Φ in the Hamiltonian yields

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d|\Psi\rangle}{dt} &= -\frac{i}{\hbar}\left(\hat{H}_0 - G\int\int \frac{\hat{\mu}(\mathbf{r})\hat{\mu}(\mathbf{s})}{|\mathbf{r}-\mathbf{s}|}d\mathbf{r}d\mathbf{s}\right)|\Psi\rangle \\ &\quad + stochastic\ terms\ of\ monitoring\ \hat{\mu} \\ &\quad + stochastic\ terms\ of\ feedback\ of\ \Phi\end{aligned}$$

nonunitarity because $|\Psi\rangle$ collapses
stochasticity of gravity because of $\delta\mu^{noise}$

Relativistic Semiclassical Gravity?

Stochastic Semiclassical Gravity (Tilloy-D.), Postquantum Gravity (Oppenheim et al.), cf. Classical Channel Gravity (Kafri,Taylor,Milburn)

Concept: spontaneous monitoring $\hat{\mathrm{T}}_{ab}$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d|\Psi\rangle}{dt} &= -\frac{i}{\hbar}\hat{H}[\mathrm{g}]|\Psi\rangle + \\ &\quad + \textit{stochastic contribution of monitoring} \\ \mathrm{G}_{ab} &= \frac{8\pi G}{c^4}\left(\langle\Psi|\hat{\mathrm{T}}_{ab}|\Psi\rangle + \delta\mathrm{T}_{ab}^{noise}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Metric g_{ab} is diffusive because T_{ab}^{signal} is diffusive.
Diffusion matrix (kernel) of T_{ab}^{signal}:

$$\left\langle \delta\mathrm{T}_{ab}^{noise}(x)\delta\mathrm{T}_{cd}^{noise}(y)\right\rangle = 2D_{ab|cd}(x)\delta(x,y)$$

NO COVARIANT CHOICE of $D_{ab|cd}$.
Relativistic “postquantum” gravity is captivating but incomplete and may not be completed.
Obstacle lies in foundations: quantum measurement/collapse is not relativistic.

Thanks for your attention! You can ask questions if you like!

Your own ones, or from my list:

- Are there better motivations than "minimum surgery"?
- Does Penrose proposal coincide or just overlap with mine?
- Is the theory parameter free?
- How is it different from the similar theories GRW or CSL?
- Does it conserve energy and momentum?
- Is any fundamental irreversibility considered in "standard" quantum-cosmology?
- What about the relativistic generalization?
- Are there experimental tests?
- What was our underground experiment 2022? Did we rule out my theory? Or Penrose's?
- Quantum-gravity is known to become relevant at extreme high energies. Then how can it influence low energy quantized matter?