Gravitational Dynamics from Multifractal Geometry

Ervin Goldfain

Ronin Institute, Montclair, New Jersey 07043, USA

E-mail ervin.goldfain@ronininstitute.org

Abstract

Emergent gravity builds upon the formal connection between classical Thermodynamics and the field equations of General Relativity. Drawing from the thermodynamic interpretation of multifractals, we speculate here that gravitational dynamics follows from the multifractal geometry of spacetime far above the Fermi scale. Our brief report suggests that a) *informational entropy* may be linked to the Beckenstein-Hawking entropy and b), Newton's constant may be linked to the *information dimension*, a defining metric of multifractal scaling.

Key words: General Relativity, Emergent gravity, Thermodynamics of spacetime, Multifractal geometry, Black Hole entropy.

In general, interacting Hamiltonian systems are *nonintegrable* and their long-term evolution *chaotic* in the classical sense [1-2, 6, 11-12]. While many-body gravitational systems are non-integrable, chaos is typically suppressed in Quantum Mechanics due to the linearity of the Schrödinger equation. One may reasonably argue that, if *decoherence* sets in somewhere above the Fermi scale, nonlinearly coupled systems of quantum particles or fields are expected to become classical and, as such, evolve towards Hamiltonian chaos in a universal way. This scenario falls outside the framework of Quantum Chaos, where trace formulas and Random Matrix Theory are the main tools of analysis [9-10].

It has been known for quite some time that the structure of the phase-space generated by Hamiltonian chaos is non-differentiable and its characterization typically requires the language of multifractal sets. Let a distribution of phase-space orbits be covered by $N(\varepsilon)$ cells of nearly vanishing size ε. The *information dimension* and *informational entropy* are given by, respectively, [1, 7]

$$D_1 = \lim_{\varepsilon \to 0} \frac{\ln N(\varepsilon)}{\ln(1/\varepsilon)} \tag{1}$$

$$S_{inf}(\varepsilon) = -\sum_j P_j \ln P_j = \ln N(\varepsilon) \tag{2}$$

in which

$$N(\varepsilon) \propto \varepsilon^{-D_1} \tag{3}$$

and where P_j denotes the probability of locating the orbit in the j cell. The global information encoded in phase-space may be characterized by introducing a *measure* (a generalization of "length", "area" or "volume" in ordinary geometry) according to

$$\kappa \propto \ln(1/\varepsilon^{\sigma}) = -\sigma \ln \varepsilon; \quad \sigma > 0 \tag{4}$$

such that $\kappa \to \infty$ as $\varepsilon \to 0$. One obtains, by (2), (3) and (4),

$$S_{inf} \propto D_1 \frac{\kappa}{\sigma} \tag{5}$$

Since both entropy and measure are additive parameters, one may reasonably assume that (5) applies to a scenario where the phase-space is

partitioned into an ensemble of subsets and global averages replace local values, as in

$$\langle S_{\text{inf}} \rangle \propto \langle D_1 \rangle \frac{\langle \kappa \rangle}{\sigma} \tag{6}$$

An intriguing interpretation of (6) is that it echoes the Beckenstein-Hawking entropy formula expressed in natural units ($c = \hbar = 1$),

$$S_{BH} = \frac{1}{4G_N} A \tag{7}$$

where S_{BH} stands for the Black Hole entropy, G_N is Newton's constant and A the area of the event horizon [3]. In this interpretation, $\langle \kappa \rangle / \sigma$ is the analog of the horizon area A and the dimensionless Newton's constant the analog of information dimension, i.e.

$$\boxed{\langle D_1 \rangle \Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{G_N M_p^2}} \tag{8}$$

in which M_p denotes the Planck scale. Here, $\langle D_1 \rangle$ plays the role of a *universal constant*, independent of both σ and $\varepsilon \ll 1$.

We close with a couple of observations that are relevant for follow up work on the topic:

1) In line with the philosophy of emergent gravity [4-5], relations (6)-(8) hint that gravitational dynamics may be directly derived from the *thermodynamics of fractal spacetime.*

2) Allowing the exponent σ to scan through a range of positive and negative values, produces a *degenerate entropy* which fluctuates between 0 and ∞. At least in principle, this possibility may offer an unforeseen resolution to the Black Hole information problem [8].

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