

Making a Quantum Universe: Symmetry and Gravity

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We outline a quantum model for the Universe [1] and show that an interaction similar to gravity emerges when it is partitioned to subsystems. The model is based on three well motivated assumptions with compelling observational and theoretical evidence: 1) Quantum mechanics is valid at all scales and applies to every entity, including the Universe as a whole; 2) Any quantum system is described by its symmetries and its Hilbert space is a representation of these symmetries [2]; 3) The Universe has infinite degrees of freedom corresponding to commuting observables. The Hilbert space of this model represents $SU(N \rightarrow \infty) \cong$ surface preserving $\text{Diff.}(S^2)$ [3]. Thus, its algebra depends on 2 angular parameters of the sphere. Generators of the algebra can be expanded with respect to spherical harmonic functions and a Lagrangian analogous to Yang-Mills (YM) models can be constructed on the 2D sphere. We normalize generators of $su(\infty)$ algebra such that its structure coefficients become proportional to \hbar/M_P , where \hbar is the Planck constant and M_P the Planck mass. We notice that when $\hbar \rightarrow 0$ or $M_P \rightarrow \infty$, the symmetry becomes homomorphic to abelian group $U(1) \times U(1) \dots$ in classical systems. Moreover, the appearance of \hbar/M_P in the construction of the model solves a puzzle raised in [4], namely why the scale of quantumness \hbar is universal. At this stage the Lagrangian of the model is static and trivial. But, when the Universe is divided to subsystems by symmetry breaking [5] or more generally by partitioning of the Hilbert space by a subalgebra associated to a finite dimensional group G [6], the model acquires two additional parameters, which can be interpreted as *distance* and *time*. More precisely, subsystems represents $SU(\infty) \times G \cong SU(\infty) \cong \text{Diff.}(S^2)$. The radius of the sphere in $\text{Diff.}(S^2)$, which in the case of full system is irrelevant, becomes an observable when subsystems are compared and is measured in unit of \hbar/M_P . Moreover, a clock à la Page & Wootters provides a reference by which variation of the state of a subsystem by application of a member of $SU(\infty) \times G$ can be compared with the variation of the clock. In addition to explaining the origin of spacetime dimension, this model shows that spacetime is the parameter space of the Hilbert space of Universe content and Einstein equation presents the projection of the dynamics in its Hilbert/Fock space into its classical parameter space. Signature of spacetime metric is induced by maximum speed of variation of coherent states [7], and Lagrangian of Einstein gravity depends linearly on the Riemann curvature because of quadratic form of the YM Lagrangian. We briefly discuss common points of this model with string theory and loop quantum gravity and their differences.

References

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