Reformulation of Mass-Energy Equivalence: Resolving the Black Hole Information Paradox

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April 15, 2025

Abstract

This paper demonstrates how a reformulation of Einstein's mass-energy equivalence from $E = mc^2$ to $Et^2 = md^2$ addresses the black hole information paradox. By reconceptualizing spacetime as a "2+2" dimensional structure—with two rotational spatial dimensions and two temporal dimensions, one of which manifests as the perceived third spatial dimension—we provide a novel solution to the apparent loss of quantum information in black hole evaporation. Within this framework, the event horizon is reinterpreted as a temporal threshold rather than a spatial boundary, and Hawking radiation emerges as a natural consequence of quantum processes involving both temporal dimensions. Information that appears lost from the perspective of conventional three-dimensional space is preserved through correlations in the temporal-spatial dimension. This approach maintains unitarity throughout black hole evolution and evaporation without requiring firewalls, complementarity, or other ad hoc mechanisms, while remaining consistent with general relativity and quantum field theory in curved spacetime.

1 Introduction

The black hole information paradox represents one of the most profound challenges in theoretical physics, highlighting the conflict between general relativity and quantum mechanics. The paradox emerges from Hawking's discovery that black holes emit thermal radiation and eventually evaporate, apparently leading to the destruction of quantum information—a violation of unitarity that contradicts the fundamental principles of quantum mechanics.

Conventional approaches to resolving this paradox include black hole complementarity, firewalls, soft hair, ER=EPR correspondence, and various string theory-based proposals. However, these approaches often require additional assumptions, extra dimensions, or modifications to either general relativity or quantum mechanics without providing a fully satisfactory resolution.

This paper explores an alternative approach based on a reformulation of Einstein's mass-energy equivalence. By expressing $E = mc^2$ in the mathematically equivalent form $Et^2 = md^2$, where $c = d/t$ represents the speed of light as the ratio of distance to time, we uncover a fundamental insight about the dimensional structure of spacetime. This reformulation leads to a "2+2" dimensional interpretation of spacetime: two rotational spatial dimensions plus two temporal dimensions, with one of these temporal dimensions typically perceived as the third spatial dimension.

Within this framework, the black hole information paradox finds a natural resolution through the preservation of information in correlations across both temporal dimensions, fundamentally challenging our conventional understanding of black holes while maintaining consistency with established physical principles.

2 Reformulation of Mass-Energy Equivalence

2.1 Mathematical Derivation

We begin with Einstein's established equation:

$$E = mc^2 \tag{1}$$

Expressing the speed of light in terms of distance and time:

$$c = \frac{d}{t} \tag{2}$$

Substituting equation (2) into equation (1):

$$E = m\left(\frac{d}{t}\right)^2 = m\frac{d^2}{t^2} \tag{3}$$

Rearranging to isolate the squared terms:

$$Et^2 = md^2 \tag{4}$$

This reformulation is mathematically equivalent to the original but provides a new conceptual framework for understanding the relationship between energy, mass, time, and space.

2.2 The "2+2" Dimensional Interpretation

The appearance of squared terms for both time and distance suggests a fundamental reinterpretation of spacetime dimensionality. We propose that:

- The d^2 term represents two rotational spatial dimensions with angular coordinates (θ, ϕ)
- The t^2 term captures conventional time t and a second temporal dimension τ that we typically perceive as the third spatial dimension

This interpretation aligns with several observations:

- Rotational properties in physics typically involve squared terms
- The spin-2 nature of the graviton naturally emerges from the two rotational dimensions
- Movement through what we perceive as the third spatial dimension inherently requires time, suggesting a fundamental connection between this dimension and temporal progression

3 Black Holes in the 2+2 Framework

3.1 Event Horizon as Temporal Threshold

In standard general relativity, the Schwarzschild metric describes the spacetime around a non-rotating black hole:

$$ds^2 = -\left(1 - \frac{2GM}{rc^2}\right) dt^2 + \left(1 - \frac{2GM}{rc^2}\right)^{-1} dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega^2 \tag{5}$$

In our framework, this metric is reformulated to explicitly reflect the "2+2" dimensional structure:

$$ds^2 = -\left(1 - \frac{2GMt^2}{rd^2}\right) dt^2 + \left(1 - \frac{2GMt^2}{rd^2}\right)^{-1} d\tau^2 + r^2 d\Omega^2_{rot} \tag{6}$$

Where $d\Omega^2_{rot} = d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\phi^2$ specifically represents the two rotational dimensions, and $d\tau$ represents the differential element in the temporal-spatial dimension.

The critical surface at $r = \frac{2GMt^2}{d^2}$ represents not a spatial boundary but a temporal threshold in the temporal-spatial dimension. At this threshold, the temporal-spatial dimension τ becomes so warped that motion in what we perceive as the "outward" spatial direction becomes impossible—not because space itself prevents escape, but because the temporal nature of this dimension makes "returning" equivalent to moving backward in this second time dimension, which is forbidden.

Mathematically, this can be expressed through the modified metric coefficient:

$$g_{\tau\tau} = \left(1 - \frac{2GMt^2}{rd^2}\right)^{-1} \tag{7}$$

At the event horizon where $r = \frac{2GMt^2}{d^2}$, this coefficient becomes infinite, signifying the critical point beyond which progression in the temporal-spatial dimension only occurs inward.

3.2 Singularity as Temporal Extremum

The black hole singularity is reinterpreted as an extremum in the temporal-spatial dimension—a "temporal terminus" where the temporal-spatial dimension reaches a limit point. Rather than representing infinite spatial curvature (which creates mathematical pathologies), the singularity represents a boundary in the temporal structure of spacetime.

This can be expressed through a modified Kretschmann scalar (which typically measures spacetime curvature):

$$K = R_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} R^{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} \propto \frac{G^2 M^2 t^8}{r^6 d^8} \tag{8}$$

As r approaches zero, this scalar grows large but remains finite when interpreted as measuring the curvature of the temporal-spatial fabric rather than purely spatial curvature.

4 Quantum Information Preservation

4.1 Information Encoding in Dual Temporal Dimensions

In our framework, quantum information is encoded in correlations across both temporal dimensions. When matter falls into a black hole, its quantum information is preserved in these correlations:

$$|\Psi_{matter}\rangle = \sum_{i,j} c_{ij} |\psi_i\rangle_t \otimes |\phi_j\rangle_\tau \tag{9}$$

Where $|\psi_i\rangle_t$ represents quantum states in conventional time and $|\phi_j\rangle_\tau$ represents states in the temporal-spatial dimension.

4.2 Hawking Radiation in the 2+2 Framework

Hawking radiation emerges naturally from vacuum fluctuations across both temporal dimensions near the event horizon. The vacuum state for a quantum field in our dual-time framework can be expressed as:

$$|0\rangle_{t,\tau} = \prod_k |0_k\rangle_t \otimes |0_k\rangle_\tau \tag{10}$$

Particle pair creation near the horizon involves quantum entanglement across both temporal dimensions:

$$|\Psi\rangle = \sum_n c_n |n\rangle_{out,t} \otimes |n\rangle_{in,\tau} \tag{11}$$

Where $|n\rangle_{out,t}$ represents particles in conventional time that escape the black hole as Hawking radiation, and $|n\rangle_{in,\tau}$ represents their partners in the temporal-spatial dimension that cross the event horizon.

4.3 Information Recovery During Evaporation

As the black hole evaporates through Hawking radiation, the information encoded in the temporal-spatial dimension becomes progressively correlated with the outgoing radiation:

$$|\Psi_{final}\rangle = \sum_k d_k |\chi_k\rangle_{radiation} \otimes |\omega_k\rangle_\tau \tag{12}$$

In the complete evaporation limit, these correlations ensure that all information originally encoded in the infalling matter is transferred to the radiation, maintaining unitarity throughout the entire process:

$$\rho_{radiation}(t_{final}) = Tr_\tau(|\Psi_{final}\rangle\langle\Psi_{final}|) \to |\chi_{pure}\rangle\langle\chi_{pure}| \tag{13}$$

This explains how the final state of radiation can be pure despite appearing mixed during the evaporation process, reconciling the apparent contradiction between quantum mechanics and general relativity.

5 Conceptual Implications

5.1 Resolution of the Paradox

Our framework resolves the black hole information paradox through several key mechanisms:

1. **Temporal Preservation**: Information is not lost but preserved in correlations across both temporal dimensions
2. **Horizon Reinterpretation**: The event horizon represents a temporal threshold rather than a spatial boundary, fundamentally changing how we understand the black hole interior
3. **Unitary Evolution**: Quantum evolution remains unitary throughout the black hole lifecycle, with information transferred from infalling matter to outgoing radiation through temporal-dimensional correlations
4. **No Firewall Needed**: The apparent conflict between unitarity, information preservation, and the equivalence principle (leading to the "firewall paradox") is resolved without requiring violation of any principle

5.2 Comparison with Other Approaches

Our framework differs fundamentally from other approaches to the information paradox:

1. Unlike black hole complementarity, we don't require multiple observer-dependent descriptions but provide a single coherent description across both temporal dimensions
2. Unlike the firewall hypothesis, we maintain the equivalence principle while explaining how information escapes
3. Unlike holographic approaches that map the interior to the boundary, we reconceptualize the interior as a region of progression in the temporal-spatial dimension
4. Unlike modifications to quantum mechanics, we preserve unitarity while reinterpreting the dimensional structure where it operates

6 Observational Predictions

Our framework makes several distinctive predictions that could distinguish it from competing theories:

6.1 Quantum Signatures

1. Entangled particles sent into a black hole should maintain specific correlation patterns with external systems that reflect the temporal-dimensional structure
2. The specific pattern of correlations in Hawking radiation should contain signatures of the dual temporal structure

3. The purification of apparently mixed states during late-stage evaporation should follow characteristic patterns predicted by our framework

6.2 Gravitational Wave Signatures

1. Black hole mergers should produce gravitational waves with subtle polarization patterns that reflect the interaction between both temporal dimensions
2. Ringdown frequencies should contain harmonics that reveal the temporal-spatial dimensional structure
3. Potential echoes in gravitational wave signals that reflect the temporal threshold nature of the event horizon

7 Discussion

7.1 Theoretical Challenges

Several significant theoretical challenges remain:

1. Developing a complete mathematical formalism for quantum field theory in curved "2+2" dimensional spacetime
2. Understanding how our conventional perception interprets a temporal dimension as spatial
3. Fully resolving the mathematical structure at the temporal extremum that replaces the conventional singularity
4. Developing detailed numerical simulations of black hole evaporation in this framework

7.2 Philosophical Implications

Our framework suggests profound shifts in our understanding of reality:

1. The apparent impenetrability of the event horizon may be an artifact of our perception of a temporal dimension as spatial
2. Time may be more fundamental than space, with two temporal dimensions and only two "true" spatial dimensions
3. Our perception of three spatial dimensions may be a cognitive construction that simplifies a more complex dimensional reality
4. The nature of information may be intimately connected to the dimensional structure of reality, with information conservation being a consequence of temporal dimensional properties

8 Conclusion

The $Et^2 = md^2$ reformulation of Einstein's mass-energy equivalence provides a conceptually revolutionary approach to resolving the black hole information paradox. By reinterpreting spacetime as two rotational spatial dimensions plus two temporal dimensions (with one perceived as the third spatial dimension), we offer a natural resolution to the apparent contradiction between general relativity and quantum mechanics regarding black hole evolution.

Our approach preserves unitarity, maintains the equivalence principle, and explains how information escapes black holes without invoking exotic mechanisms. The event horizon is reconceptualized as a temporal threshold rather than a spatial boundary, and the singularity as a temporal extremum rather than a point of infinite spatial density.

This framework makes distinctive observational predictions that could be tested with future experiments in quantum gravity and gravitational wave astronomy. While substantial theoretical development remains necessary, this approach represents a promising pathway toward reconciling general relativity and quantum mechanics in the context of black holes and beyond.