

**Title:** A Hunt for the Physical Manifestation of Black Hole Unitarity

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**Abstract:**

The black hole information paradox is a fundamental conflict between the quantum-mechanical and thermodynamic descriptions of black holes, specifically of their particle-emission process known as the Hawking radiation. The paradox concerns whether the radiation of a black hole is a unitary time evolution or a thermal process that erases most information about the initial state of the black hole. Multiple black hole models (e.g. [1,2]) were shown to exhibit the Page curve behavior, suggesting the unitarity of the Hawking radiation. However, without a verified theory of quantum gravity, the exact structure of black holes remains undetermined, and we need a model-independent way to test black hole unitarity. My project thus aims to develop a general framework for testing black hole unitarity by searching for its physical signatures. In particular, we employ the "hybrid" RST model [3], which possesses a Page-curve behavior, and study whether the unitarity is manifested in the transition rate of the Unruh-DeWitt particle detector.

[1] Hong Zhe Chen, Robert C. Myers, Dominik Neuenfeld, Ignacio A. Reyes, Joshua Sandor. Quantum Extremal Islands Made Easy, Part II: Black Holes on the Brane".  
<https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2010.00018>.

[2] Yohan Potaux, Sergey N. Solodukhin, and Debajyoti Sarkar. "Spacetime Structure, Asymptotic Radiation, and Information Recovery for a Quantum Hybrid State." *Physical Review Letters* 130, no. 26 (June 30, 2023): 261501.  
<https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.130.261501>.

[3] Yohan Potaux, Debajyoti Sarkar, and Sergey N. Solodukhin. "Quantum States and Their Back-Reacted Geometries in 2D Dilaton Gravity." *Physical Review D* 105, no. 2 (January 12, 2022): 025015. <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevD.105.025015>.



# A Hunt for Physical Manifestation of Black Hole Unitarity

Hyo Jung Park

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PI Graduate Students' Conference

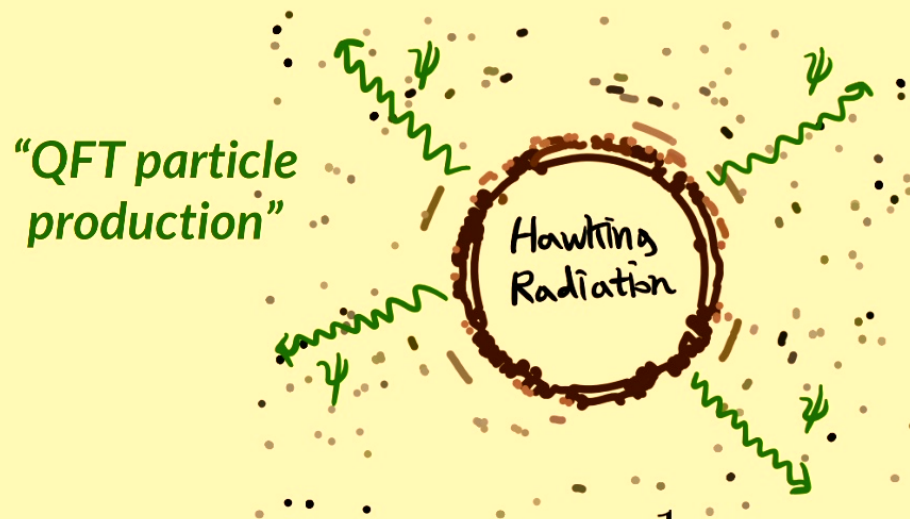
Ongoing work with  
Prof. Robert B. Mann



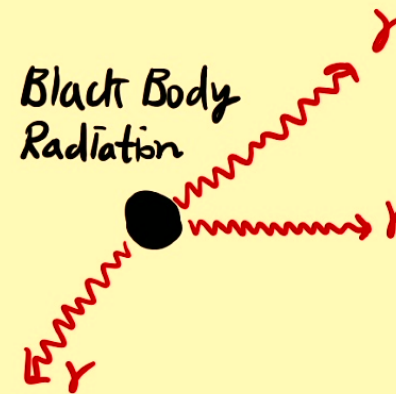
# Prelude to Black Hole Information Paradox

Hawking (1974)

Classical BH metric + Quantum matter  $\psi$   
 Assume BH radiates particles...



$$\langle N \rangle \propto \frac{1}{e^{2\pi\omega/\kappa} - 1}$$



$$B_\omega(T) \propto \frac{\omega^3}{e^{\hbar\omega/k_B T} - 1}$$

# Debate!! on Black Hole Unitarity

Hawking (1974)

“Radiation is *thermal* ... also at micro”

Unitarity?!?

**Non-unitarity  $\Rightarrow$  Initial info forever lost!!**

$$\hat{\rho}_{\text{pure}} = |\text{Rad.}, \text{BH}\rangle \langle \text{Rad.}, \text{BH}| \xrightarrow[\text{Hawking radiation}]{\text{No } \hat{U}(t_0, t)} \hat{\rho}_{\text{mixed}}$$

# Debate!! on Black Hole Unitarity

Hawking (1974)

Unitarity?!?

Page (1993)

“Radiation is *thermal* ... also at micro”

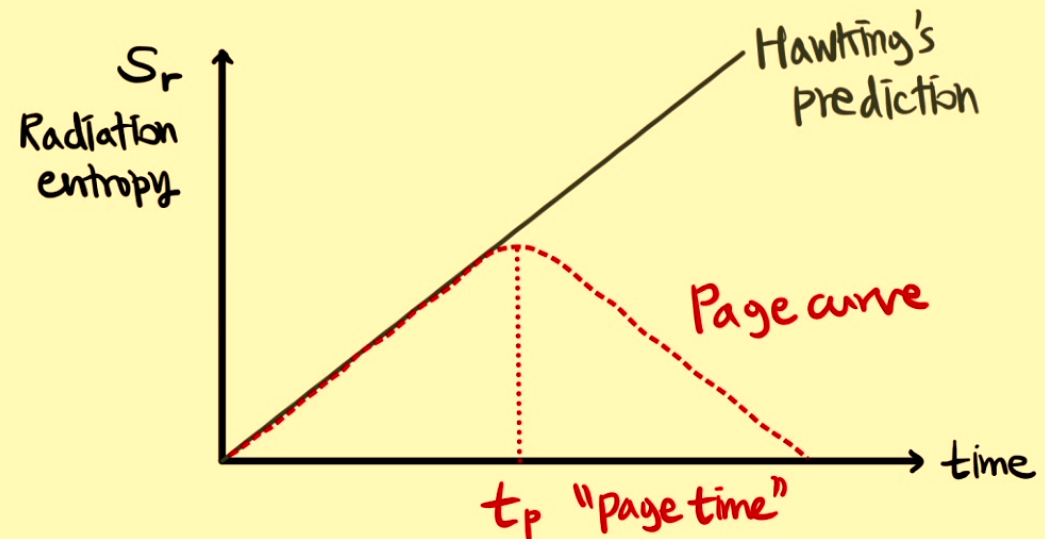
**Non-unitarity  $\Rightarrow$  Initial info forever lost!!**

If starts & stays pure ...

$$S_r = -\text{tr}_r(\rho_r \log \rho_r),$$

$$\rho_r = \text{tr}_{BH} \rho_{r,BH}$$

$$\rho_{r,BH} = |r, BH\rangle \langle r, BH|$$



# Debate!! on Black Hole Unitarity

Hawking (1974)

“Radiation is *thermal* ... also at micro”

Unitarity?!?

Non-unitarity  $\Rightarrow$  Initial info forever lost!!

Page (1993)

Unitarity  $\Rightarrow$  Page curve behavior

Check Unitarity

***Models yield Page curve; exact  $S$  calculated***

Chen, Myers, Neuenfeld, Reyes, Sandor. *arXiv.2010.00018.*

Russo, Susskind, Thorlacius *PRD* 1992, 1993

Potiaux, Solodukhin, Sarkar. *PRL* 130, no. 26: 261501.

...

# Debate!! on Black Hole Unitarity

Hawking (1974)

"Radiation is thermal, also at micro"

Uni

**So... end of debate?  
No, need a verified QG theory!!**

er lost!!

Page

**Regardless of models, aim to test unitarity!!  
... without calculating exact  $S$ ?**

calculated

Check

Chen, Myers, Neuenfeld, Reyes, Sandor. arXiv.2010.00018.

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# Operational Approach to Black Hole Unitarity

Goal: *Test* BH unitarity by probing its physical manifestation

Q. How will an observer outside a BH “feel” the unitarity?

an external  
observer



BH with Page curve





# Operational Approach to Black Hole Unitarity

Goal: *Test* BH unitarity by probing its physical manifestation

Q. How will an observer outside a BH “feel” the unitarity?

an external  
observer  
*Unruh-DeWitt  
Detector*  
⇒ *Transition Rate*



BH with Page curve  
←  
*“Hybrid RST Model”:  
Classical spacetime  
+ Quantum matter*

Russo, Susskind, Thorlacius PRD 1992, 1993  
Potaux, Solodukhin, Sarkar. PRL 130, no. 26 (2023): 261501

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# Operational Approach to Black Hole Unitarity

Goal: Test BH unitarity by probing its physical manifestation

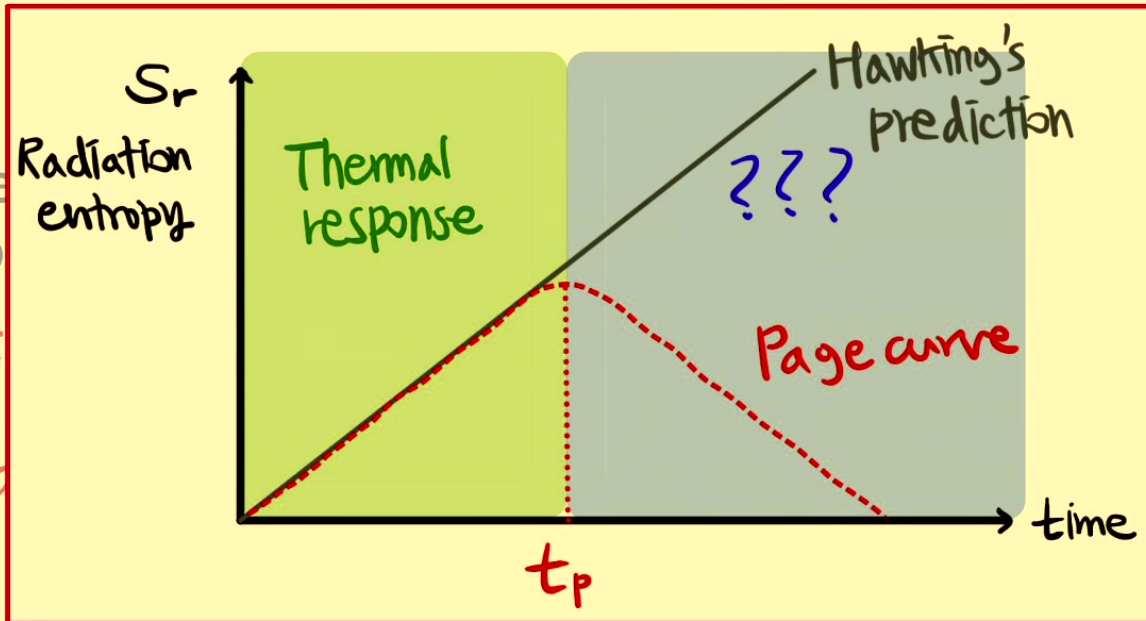
Q. How will an observer outside a BH “feel” the unitarity?

Stay tuned!!

an e  
ob

Unruh-DeWitt  
Detector

⇒ Transition R



with Page curve

Grid RST Model":  
physical spacetime  
quantum matter

ind, Thorlacius PRD 1992, 1993  
Potaux, Solodukhin, Sarkar. PRL 130, no. 26 (2023): 261501

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