



Full Paper

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Extended uncertainty relation and rough estimate of cosmological constant

Abstract

One brief idea on the extended uncertainty relation and the dynamical quantization of space-time at the Planck scale is presented. The extended uncertainty relation could be a guiding principle toward the renormalizable quantum gravity. Cosmological constant in the Universe as a quantum effect is also roughly estimated.

Key Words

Extended uncertainty principle; Space-time quantization; Universe wave function; Renormalizable quantum gravity; Loop quantum gravity; Cosmological constant.

In the classical theory of general relativity^[1] the distribution and motion of matter (*i.e.* energy-momentum) are determined by gravitational field functions (*i.e.* description of space-time), and at the same time gravitational field functions are determined by the distribution and motion of matter through Einstein's field equation. In the modern quantum theory space-time is closely related to energy-momentum of matter by Heisenberg's uncertainty relation^[2]. I think it is unreasonable to treat space-time and matter separately and to quantize just the metric tensor and not space-time itself in quantum gravity theory^[3]. *E.g.*, in the extended structure of a fiber bundle, where the space-time manifold has not only a charged space at each point but also a tangent space, they just concern the quantization of the charged space but the tangent space.

In this brief comment, first I would like to extend the Heisenberg's uncertainty principle to a relation between space-time and energy-momentum tensors, henceforth to apply directly to Einstein's field equations to quantize the classical gravity. As in the process of development of classical quantum mechanics in early 20 century, the procedure would be kind of ad hoc and brutish but, I hope, contain some hidden truth to find further more refined theory of quantum gravity as well as to guide us to the

deep insight of space-time at the Planck scale. Then, by matching the classical value of energy-momentum tensor to the quantum expectation value of the operator, and by estimating the first order quantum effects, I would like to calculate the cosmological constant (dark energy) of our Universe.

Now I propose an extended uncertainty relation, and study its implication to Einstein's general relativity.

1. Extend the Heisenberg's uncertainty principle,

$$[\hat{X}^{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{x}), \hat{T}_{\alpha\beta}(\mathbf{x}')] = i\hbar \delta_{\alpha\beta}^{\mu\nu} \delta^{(4)}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'), \quad (1)$$

where $\hat{X}^{\mu\nu}$ is the space-time tensor operator, and $\hat{T}_{\alpha\beta}$ is the energy-momentum tensor operator which is connected to the energy-momentum tensor in Einstein's classical general relativity equation,

$$G_{\mu\nu} \equiv R_{\mu\nu} - 1/2 g_{\mu\nu} R = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4} T_{\mu\nu}. \quad (2)$$

The relation between the first row and the first column of Eq. (1) is the same as the original Heisenberg's uncertainty principle,

$$[\hat{x}^\mu(\mathbf{x}), \hat{p}_\nu(\mathbf{x}')] = i\hbar \delta_\nu^\mu \delta^{(4)}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'). \quad (3)$$

2. Now $\hat{T}_{\alpha\beta}$, as an operator, from the generalized

uncertainty principle Eq. (1), will be defined as

$$\hat{T}^{\mu\nu} = -i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{X}_{\mu\nu}} \Rightarrow \hat{T}^{\mu\nu} = -i\hbar \nabla_{x_{\mu\nu}}, \quad (4)$$

with covariantization (for general invariance), which is meaningful after applied to the wave-function of the space-time at the Planck scale,

$$\hat{T}^{\mu\nu} \Phi_{\text{Univ}} = A^{\mu\nu} \Phi_{\text{Univ}}, \quad (5)$$

where Φ_{Univ} is a wave function for the quantized space-time, and $A^{\mu\nu}$ is the corresponding eigenvalue of energy-momentum. In practise for the present low energy scale, we may approximate a smooth whole Universe wave-function, or a symmetric wave-function within Schwarzschild radius.

3. And the classical value $T_{\mu\nu}$ of Eq. (2) can be calculable as an averaged expectation value of the operator $\hat{T}_{\mu\nu}$ as,

$$T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{CL}} = \langle \hat{T}_{\mu\nu} \rangle = \langle \Phi_{\text{Univ}} | \hat{T}_{\mu\nu} | \Phi_{\text{Univ}} \rangle = T_{\mu\nu}^{(0)} + T_{\mu\nu}^{(1)} + \dots \quad (6)$$

Here $T_{\mu\nu}^{(0)}$ would be the first order approximation of $T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{CL}}$ without any quantum correction. We presumed the validity of perturbation in (6) assuming a smooth (no singularity) macroscopic wave-function of the Universe with weak gravity.

4. Through the quantum effects, Eq. (2) is modified to

$$G_{\mu\nu} = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4} [T_{\mu\nu} + T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{QE}}] \approx \frac{8\pi G}{c^4} [T_{\mu\nu} + T_{\mu\nu}^{(1)}], \quad (7)$$

which modifies the structure of space-time from the classical gravity.

5. Here $T_{\mu\nu}^{(1)}$ is the first order quantum effect, which corresponds to energy-momentum tensor of the vacuum as

$$T_{\mu\nu}^{(1)} \approx \rho_{\text{VAC}} g_{\mu\nu}, \quad (8)$$

calculable from the quantum correction of the vacuum polarization of space-time.

From Eq. (7), $T_{\mu\nu}^{(1)}$ can also be interpreted as the cosmological constant Λ from

$$G_{\mu\nu} + \Lambda g_{\mu\nu} = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4} T_{\mu\nu},$$

where

$$\Lambda \approx -\frac{8\pi G}{c^4} \rho_{\text{VAC}}.$$

6. From Eq. (1) the operator $\hat{X}^{\mu\nu}$ can be defined as

$$\hat{X}^{\mu\nu} = i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial \hat{T}_{\mu\nu}} \Rightarrow \hat{X}^{\mu\nu} = i\hbar \nabla_{T_{\mu\nu}}, \quad (9)$$

which can give the quantization of space-time itself near around strong gravitational fields, e.g. within the horizon

of a black-hole, just like the energy quantization of a quantum mechanical bounded state. This procedure might be related to ‘‘loop quantum gravity’’^[4], which proposes Planck scale granularity of space-time based on the background independence and the diffeomorphism invariance. The difference from the loop quantum gravity would be that in our approach space-time is continuous in free space, and is quantized dynamically with the gravitational interaction. We note that this dynamic space-time quantization could be experimentally tested possibly through gravitational lens effects of a black-hole, or through early universe astroparticle observables. It may also affects the black-hole thermodynamics.

Now let us estimate numerical size of (possibly dark energy) ρ_{VAC} (and the size of the cosmological constant).

1. As a rough numerical approximation, I guess that taking only the vacuum polarization of graviton in weak Abelian gravitational field would be rather a good approximation just for the cosmological constant, which is macroscopic galactic feature of the Universe.

2. Following Lamb shift of Hydrogen spectrum^[5]

$$|\delta E_{\text{Lamb}}| \approx \alpha^5 \frac{m_e c^2}{30\pi},$$

the quantum correction of the vacuum energy density of the Universe is approximately, considering Planck mass fluctuation,

$$|\delta \rho_{\text{VAC}}| \sim \left(\frac{M_*^2}{M_p^2} \right)^5 \frac{M_p c^2}{30\pi L_p^3} \quad (10)$$

$$\approx \left(\frac{M_*^2}{M_p^2} \right)^5 0.4 \times 10^{92} \text{ g / cm}^3, \quad (11)$$

where M_p and L_p are Planck mass and Planck length, respectively. Here M_* is the scale of observation, therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} |\delta \rho_{\text{VAC}}| &\sim 10^{-98} \text{ g/cm}^3 && \text{for } M_* = \text{O}(1) \text{ GeV,} \\ &\sim 10^{-153} \text{ g/cm}^3 && \text{for } M_* = \text{O}(1) \text{ keV,} \end{aligned}$$

which are within the experimental upper bound^[6]

$$|\delta \rho_{\text{VAC}}^{\text{exp}}| < 4 \times 10^{-29} \text{ g / cm}^3,$$

where the upper limit corresponds to $M_* \sim 10^7 \text{ GeV}$.

3. And finally the cosmological constant Λ is

$$\Lambda = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4} \rho_{\text{VAC}}$$

Since space-time is closely related to matter through Einstein’s field equation and Heisenberg’s uncertainty relation, I proposed an extended uncertainty principle to the relation between space-time and energy-momentum tensors, which could not only describe the Universe wave function but also quantize space-time itself through the relation. This extended uncertainty relation could be a guiding principle toward the renormalizable quantum gravity, or toward the resolution of landscape problem. Because

at the energy scale of order 10¹⁵-16 GeV (or equivalently distance scale of order 10⁻²⁹ cm) the gravitational quantum effects appear just around the corner, at the present experimental level we have no way to investigate directly quantum gravity. However, I proposed even at the scale of GeV, though space-time has little curvature (*i.e.* by Einstein's field equation, $g_{\mu\nu} = \delta_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu}$, $h_{\mu\nu}$ small), space-time itself is quantized in a measurable sense through the quantum effects of cosmological constant. And its dynamic space-time quantization could be experimentally tested through gravitational lens effects of a black-hole as well. Please also note that recently BICEP2 experiment^[7] has detected primordial gravitational waves, which may imply the generation of large scale curvature perturbation.

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