

Asymptotic Safety in Quantum Gravity and Diffeomorphic Non-isometric Metric Solutions to the Schwarzschild Metric

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Abstract

We revisit the construction of diffeomorphic but *not* isometric metric solutions to the Schwarzschild metric. These solutions require the introduction of non-trivial areal-radial functions and are characterized by the key property that the radial horizon's location is *displaced* continuously towards the singularity ($r = 0$). In the limiting case scenario the location of the singularity and horizon *merges* and any in-falling observer hits a null singularity at the very moment he/she crosses the horizon. This fact may have important consequences for the resolution of the fire wall problem and the complementarity controversy in black holes. This construction allows to borrow the results over the past two decades pertaining the study of the Renormalization Group (RG) improvement of Einstein's equations which was based on the possibility that Quantum Einstein Gravity might be non-perturbatively renormalizable and asymptotically safe due to the presence of interacting (non-Gaussian) ultraviolet fixed points. The particular areal-radial function that eliminates the interior of a black hole, and furnishes a truly static metric solution everywhere, is used to establish the desired energy-scale relation $k = k(r)$ which is obtained from the k (energy) dependent modifications to the running Newtonian coupling $G(k)$, cosmological constant $\Lambda(k)$ and spacetime metric $g_{ij,(k)}(x)$. (Anti) de Sitter-Schwarzschild metrics are also explored as examples. We conclude with a discussion of the role that Asymptotic Safety might have in the geometry of phase spaces (cotangent bundles of spacetime); i.e. namely, in establishing a quantum spacetime geometry/classical phase geometry correspondence $g_{ij,(k)}(x) \leftrightarrow g_{ij}(x, E)$.

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1 Introduction : Diffeomorphic but Not Isometric Solutions to the Schwarzschild Metric

In this introduction we review the key points in [3] which are essential to follow the next sections. The static spherically symmetric (SSS) *vacuum* solution of Einstein's field equations [1] that we learned from the text books is actually the Hilbert form of the original Schwarzschild [2] solution

$$(ds)^2 = \left(1 - \frac{2GM}{r}\right) (dt)^2 - \left(1 - \frac{2GM}{r}\right)^{-1} (dr)^2 - r^2 (d\Omega)^2. \quad (1.1)$$

There are an infinite number of metrics which are diffeomorphic but **not** isometric to the Hilbert form of the Schwarzschild [2] solution. A particular class of metrics are given by a family of metrics parametrized by a family of *areal* radial functions $\rho_\lambda(r)$ (in $c = 1$ units), in terms of a real parameter $0 \leq \lambda < 1$, as follows

$$(ds)_{(\lambda)}^2 = \left(1 - \frac{2GM}{\rho_\lambda(r)}\right) (dt)^2 - \left(1 - \frac{2GM}{\rho_\lambda(r)}\right)^{-1} (d\rho_\lambda)^2 - \rho_\lambda^2(r) (d\Omega)^2. \quad (1.2)$$

where $(d\rho_\lambda)^2 = (d\rho_\lambda(r)/dr)^2 (dr)^2$ and the solid angle infinitesimal element is $(d\Omega)^2 = (d\phi)^2 + \sin^2(\phi)(d\theta)^2$. The surface area at each point r is now given by $4\pi(\rho_\lambda(r))^2$ so that $\rho_\lambda(r)$ plays the role of an effective radius and hence the name of “areal-radial” function for $\rho_\lambda(r)$.

It is clear that the metric (1.2) is diffeomorphic but *not* isometric to the Hilbert form (1.1) of the Schwarzschild [2] solution because the area elements $r^2 (d\Omega)^2 \neq \rho_\lambda^2(r) (d\Omega)^2$ are *not* equal, except in the trivial case when $\rho_\lambda(r) = r$. The diffeomorphisms are simply established by the mappings $r \rightarrow \rho_\lambda(r)$. Therefore, despite that the metric (1.2) has the same exact *appearance* as the Schwarzschild solution, it is very *different*. We have not *relabelled* the radial variable r by giving it another “name” and calling it “ ρ_λ ”, because $\rho_\lambda(r)$ is itself a function of r . Furthermore, one has not performed a naive change of variables by writing $r = r(r')$. The metric (1.2) leads to modifications of the Newtonian potential at short distances. One recovers the Newtonian potential in the asymptotic regime when $\rho_\lambda(r) \sim r$.

In the Appendix we show explicitly that the metric (1.2) is a solution to Einstein's vacuum field equations. This expression for the family of metrics is given in terms of the family of *areal* radial functions $\rho_\lambda(r)$ which does *not* violate Birkhoff's theorem since the metric (1.2) expressed in terms of the areal radial functions $\rho_\lambda(r)$ has exactly the same functional form as that required by Birkhoff's theorem. It is well known to the experts that the *extended* Schwarzschild metric solution for $r < 0$ with $M > 0$, corresponds to a solution in the region $r > 0$ with $M < 0$. Negative masses are associated with repulsive gravity. For this reason, the domain of values of r will be chosen to span the whole real axis $-\infty \leq r \leq \infty$.

The particular choice for the function $\rho(r) = r$ yields the standard Hilbert-Schwarzschild solution, whereas the infinite family of metric solutions (1.2) are associated to an infinite number of *modifications* to the gravitational Newtonian potential, in the

weak field limit. Experiments will tell what type of corrections to the Newtonian potential at shorter distances occur and which will fix the functional form of the areal radial function $\rho(r)$ (which in the Appendix we denote by $R(r)$ and must not be confused with the scalar curvature $\mathcal{R}(r)$).

The boundary conditions obeyed by the areal radial function $\rho_\lambda(r)$ must be at the origin $\rho_\lambda(r=0) = 0$, and asymptotically $\rho_\lambda(r \rightarrow \infty) \sim r \rightarrow \infty$. The Hilbert textbook (black hole) solution [5] when $\rho(r) = r$ obeys the boundary conditions but the Abrams-Brillouin [4] choice $\rho(r) = r + 2GM$ does *not*. The *original* solution of 1916 found by Schwarzschild for $\rho(r)$ did not obey the boundary condition $\rho(r=0) = 0$ as well. The condition $\rho(r=0) = 2GM$ has a serious *flaw* and is : how is it *possible* for a point-mass at $r = 0$ to have a non-zero area $4\pi(2GM)^2$ and a *zero* volume *simultaneously* ?; so it seems that one is forced to choose the Hilbert areal radial function $\rho(r) = r$. It is known that fractals have unusual properties related to their lengths, areas, volumes, dimensions but we are not focusing on fractal spacetimes at the moment. For instance, one could have a *fractal* horizon surface of infinite area but zero volume (space-filling fractal surface). The finite area of $4\pi(2GM)^2$ could then be seen as a regularized value of the infinite area of a “fractal horizon”.

The Hilbert choice for the areal radial function $\rho(r) = r$ is ultimately linked to the actual form of the Newtonian potential $V_N = -(Gm_1m_2/r)$. In the last few decades corrections to Newton’s law of gravitation and constraints on them have become the subject of considerable study, see the monograph [6]. Yukawa-type corrections to Newton’s gravitational law from two recent measurements of the Casimir interaction between metallic surfaces was studied by [7]. A Yukawa-like correction to the Newtonian potential could be chosen to be

$$V(r) = -\frac{Gm_1m_2}{r} (1 - \lambda e^{-r/2GM}), \quad \lambda > 0 \quad (1.3a)$$

where λ and $r_o = 2GM$ are the strength and interaction range of the Yukawa-type correction. One may notice that the potential (1.3a) can be rewritten in terms of an areal-radial function $\rho(r)$ as

$$V(r) = -\frac{Gm_1m_2}{\rho(r)}, \quad \rho(r) = \frac{r}{1 - \lambda e^{-r/2GM}}, \quad \lambda \neq 1 \quad (1.3b)$$

One has the correct boundary conditions for the areal radial function when $\lambda \neq 1$

$$\rho(r=0) = 0; \quad \rho_\lambda(r \rightarrow \infty) \sim r, \quad \rho(r=r_h) = 2GM; \quad 0 \leq r_h \leq 2GM \quad (1.3c)$$

so that the location of the horizon radius r_h has been *shifted* towards the singularity. In the asymptotic regime one has as expected $\rho(r \rightarrow \infty) \rightarrow r$, so that the areal-radial function tends to r (as in the Hilbert choice) and the expression for the potential is asymptotic to the Newtonian one. At the end of this section we shall discuss the case when $\lambda = 1$.

Instead of the Yukawa-type areal radial function (1.3b), one could have had a different one-parameter family of areal-radial functions $\rho_\lambda(r)$ ¹. For example, the metric solutions

¹We thank Matej Pavsic for a discussion on other choices for the radial functions

(1.2) are *invariant* under the transformations $r \rightarrow -r; M \rightarrow -M$ for our particular choice of the areal radial functions $\rho_\lambda(r)$ given in eq-(1.3b) and due to the condition $\rho_\lambda(-r, -M) = -\rho_\lambda(r, M)$. This allows us to extend the solutions to the $r < 0$ region. For a recent analysis of the properties of the maximal extensions (in regions $r < 0$) of the Kerr and Kerr-Newman spacetimes with *negative* mass, see [8].

The Penrose diagrams associated with the solutions described in (1.2) are the same as the diagrams corresponding to the extended Schwarzschild solutions with the only difference that we must replace the radial variable r for ρ . The horizons at the radial locations $r_h^{(\lambda)}$ all correspond to the *unique* value of the areal radial function $\rho(r_h^{(\lambda)}) = 2GM$ and $t = \pm\infty$. The spatial singularity is located at $\rho_\lambda(r = 0) = 0$. The Fronsdal-Kruskal-Szekeres change of coordinates that permit an analytical extension into the interior region of the black hole has the same functional form as before after replacing r for ρ . In the exterior region $\rho(r) > 2GM$ one has

$$U = \left(\frac{\rho(r)}{2GM} - 1\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} e^{\rho(r)/4GM} \cosh\left(\frac{t}{4GM}\right), \quad V = \left(\frac{\rho(r)}{2GM} - 1\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} e^{\rho(r)/4GM} \sinh\left(\frac{t}{4GM}\right); \quad (1.4a)$$

The change of coordinates in the interior region $\rho(r) < 2GM$ is

$$U = \left(1 - \frac{\rho(r)}{2GM}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} e^{\rho(r)/4GM} \sinh\left(\frac{t}{4GM}\right), \quad V = \left(1 - \frac{\rho(r)}{2GM}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} e^{\rho(r)/4GM} \cosh\left(\frac{t}{4GM}\right) \quad (1.4b)$$

In the overlap $\rho(r) = 2GM$ region, one has straight lines $U = \pm V$ of $\pm\pi/4$ slope when $t = \pm\infty$, and $U = V = 0$ for *finite* t .

The coordinate transformations lead to a well behaved metric (except at $\rho(r = 0) = 0$)

$$ds^2 = \frac{4(2GM)^3}{\rho(U, V)} e^{-\rho(U, V)/2GM} (dV^2 - dU^2) - \rho(U, V)^2 (d\Omega)^2. \quad (1.4c)$$

When $\rho(r = r_{horizon}) = 2GM$ and $d\Omega = 0$, the above interval displacement $ds^2 = 0$ is *null* along the lines $U = \pm V \Rightarrow dU = \pm dV$. The interval is singular $ds^2 = \infty$ at $\rho(r = 0) = 0$; i.e. the singularity $r = 0$ corresponds to the *spacelike* lines $V^2 - U^2 = 1 \Rightarrow dV^2 - dU^2 = -dU^2/(U^2 + 1) < 0$. A salient feature of the metric (1.4c) is that is *no* longer static in the U, V coordinates. This is a reflection of the fact that the roles of r and t are interchanged inside the horizon due to the signature flip when $r < 2GM$.

In the extreme limiting case $\lambda \rightarrow 1$ any infalling observer reaches a horizon $r_h^{(\lambda)}$ whose location approaches arbitrarily *close* to the singularity $r = 0$. To model the scenario when the horizon *merges* precisely with the singularity one needs an area radial function defined as follows

$$\rho(r = 0) = 0, \quad \rho(r) = \frac{r}{1 - e^{-r/2GM}}, \quad r > 0 \quad (1.5)$$

Under $r \rightarrow -r; M \rightarrow -M$ one has that $\rho(r) \rightarrow -\rho(r)$ so one can ensure the invariance of the metric (1.2) under these transformations and extend the solutions to the $r < 0$ region.

Hence, we have in eq-(1.5) that $\rho(r = 0^+; M) = 2GM$, and $\rho(r = 0^-; -M) = -2GM$, but $\rho(r = 0) = 0$ since a point mass must have zero area and zero volume. The horizon

is located at $r_h = 0^+$ and the singularity at $r = 0$. There is a *discontinuity* of $\rho(r)$ at $r = 0$. The right $r = 0^+$, and left $r = 0^-$ limits of $\rho(r)$ give respectively $\pm 2GM$, while $\rho(r = 0) = 0$ which is the arithmetic mean of $2GM$ and $-2GM$.

In the Appendix it is shown that the areal-radial function $\rho(r)$ given by eq-(1.5) (along with an infinite number of C^∞ differentiable functions) solves the vacuum field equations. The finite discontinuity of $\rho(r)$ occurs at one *single* point $r = 0$ (the origin), whereas $(d\rho/dr) = \infty$ at $r = 0^\pm$. Hence, the derivatives of $\rho(r)$ are continuous while $\rho(r)$ is discontinuous at $r = 0$. A typical example of this behavior is the tangent function $\tan(\theta)$. At $\theta = \pi/2$, the tangent exhibits a discontinuity as it goes from ∞ to $-\infty$, whereas the derivative remains the same and equal to ∞ . Fractal curves on the other hand are continuous everywhere but nowhere differentiable. Concluding, since the derivatives of $\rho(r)$ are continuous everywhere, the metric (1.2) whose areal-radial function $\rho(r)$ is given by eq-(1.5) solves the vacuum field equations as shown in the Appendix.

Because a point mass is an infinitely compact source there is nothing *wrong* with the possibility of having a *discontinuity* of the metric at the location of the singularity $r = 0$. Due to the boundary condition $\rho(r = 0) = 0$, there is a curvature tensor singularity and the Kretschmann invariant $R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \sim (2GM)^2/\rho(r)^6$ diverges at $\rho(r = 0) = 0$. In this extreme case, when the the location of the horizon merges with the singularity, there is a null-line singularity at $r = 0$ and a null-surface at $r = 0^+$. This may sound quite paradoxically but it is a consequence of the metric *discontinuity* at $r = 0$, the location of the point mass (singularity). This key fact may have important consequences for the resolution of the fire wall problem and the complementarity controversy in black holes [11], [13].

When the areal-radial function $\rho(r)$ has the actual form in eq-(1.5) there is *no interior* region beyond the horizon $r = 0^+$, so that the metric (1.2) is truly *static* everywhere. The Fronsdal-Kruskal-Szekeres analytical continuation of the metric (1.4c) inside the horizon is *not* static. 't Hooft [12] has most recently argued how black hole unitarity demands the existence of transformations that can remove firewalls at the standard horizon radius $2GM$. A continuity condition is imposed with an antipodal identification as an inevitable consequence. 't Hooft argued that it is necessary to revise the boundary conditions (and topology) for Nature's degrees of freedom at the horizon of a black hole. The boundary condition is characterized as an *antipodal* identification and what it means is that the region of space-time *inside* the horizon is *removed* completely, as if by surgery, after which the edges are glued together by identifying the antipodes. In our case, the horizon is located at $r = 0^+$, hence this procedure is no longer necessary. After this introductory review one may proceed.

2 Renormalization Group Improved Einstein's Equations

The Renormalization Group (RG) improvement of Einstein's equations is based on the possibility that Quantum Einstein Gravity might be non-perturbatively renormalizable

and asymptotically safe due to the presence of interacting ultraviolet fixed points [14]. In this program one has k (energy) dependent modifications to the Newtonian coupling $G(k)$, the cosmological constant $\Lambda(k)$ and energy-dependent spacetime metrics $g_{ij,(k)}(x)$. Quantum gravitational effects in spherically symmetric black hole spacetimes were studied by [15]. The effective quantum spacetime felt by a point-like test mass was constructed by “Renormalization Group improving” the Schwarzschild metric. The key ingredient is the running Newton constant which is obtained from the exact evolution equation for the effective average action. As a consequence of the quantum effects, the classical singularity at $r = 0$ was either removed completely or was at least much milder than classically. The Asymptotic safety program has also found important applications in Fractals and Cosmology [16] hinting at the possibility that a fractal spacetime arises at Planck scales, this picture was also envisioned by Nottale long ago in his formulation of Scale Relativity Theory.

In $D = 4$ there is a nontrivial interacting (non-Gaussian) ultraviolet fixed point $G_* = G(k)k^2 \neq 0$. The fixed point G_* by definition is *dimensionless* and the running gravitational coupling has the form [15], [14]

$$G(k) = G_N \frac{1}{1 + [G_N k^2 / G_*]} \quad (2.1)$$

The Renormalization Group (RG) improvement of the Schwarzschild metric components are defined to be [15]

$$g_{00,k}(r) = 1 - \frac{2G(k)M}{r}, \quad g_{rr,k}(r, E) = - \left(1 - \frac{2G(k)M}{r}\right)^{-1} \quad (2.2)$$

however if one assigns an energy-scale $k \leftrightarrow r$ correspondence by introducing a nontrivial functional relation of the form $k = k(r)$, and substitutes back its expression into the scale-dependent metric components (2.2) one will *no longer satisfy* the vacuum Einstein field equations (which led to the Schwarzschild solutions in the first place)

$$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} R = 0 \quad (2.3)$$

consequently, one will be forced to *modify* Einstein’s equations. For example, via the introduction of $f(R, \nabla R)$ Lagrangians into the modified gravitational action involving polynomials in the curvature tensor and its covariant derivatives, or more complicated functions $f(R, \nabla R)$.

For this reason, it is far simpler to exploit the more general solutions (1.2) to the vacuum field equations which are diffeomorphic but *not* isometric to the Schwarzschild solution (1.1). Therefore, one may define the $k \leftrightarrow r$ correspondence by absorbing the energy dependent (running) gravitational coupling $G(k)$ into the definition of the areal-radial function $\rho(r)$ introduced in the metric (1.2). This is achieved by writing eq-(2.2) (for $r > 0$) in the form

$$1 - \frac{2G(k(r))M}{r} = 1 - \frac{2G_N M}{\rho(r)} \Rightarrow$$

$$\frac{G(k(r))}{r} = \frac{G_N}{\rho(r)} \Rightarrow G_N \frac{1}{1 + [G_N k^2(r)/G_*]} = G_N \frac{r}{\rho(r)}, \quad r > 0 \quad (2.4)$$

and in this fashion one recasts the two metric components (2.2) as two pieces of the most general solutions displayed by eq-(1.2) involving the areal-radial function $\rho(r)$ given by eq-(1.5).² Hence, from eq-(2.4) and eq-(1.5) one can read-off directly the sought-after $k \leftrightarrow r$ correspondence

$$k^2(r) = \frac{G_*}{G_N} \frac{e^{-r/2G_N M}}{1 - e^{-r/2G_N M}} \quad (2.5)$$

the most salient feature of the energy-scale relation eq-(2.5) is that it does not have the same functional dependence as obtained in [15] and given by $k \sim 1/d(r)$ where $d(r)$ is the proper radial distance between two points $\int_{r_o}^r \sqrt{|g_{rr}|} dr$. It was emphasized earlier that metrics of the type

$$(ds)^2 = \left(1 - \frac{2G(k(r))M}{r}\right) (dt)^2 - \left(1 - \frac{2G(k(r))M}{r}\right)^{-1} (dr)^2 - r^2 (d\Omega)^2. \quad (2.6)$$

do *not* solve the vacuum Einstein field equations.

Before proceeding let us mention that one could try to remedy this problem by adding matter sources, corresponding to the stress energy tensor $T_\nu^\mu = (\sigma, -p_r, -p_\theta, -p_\phi)$, to the right hand side of Einstein equations, and associated to a mass source distribution of the form $M(r) = \int_0^r \sigma(r') 4\pi r'^2 dr'$. The expression for $M(r)$ is obtained from the identification $G(k(r))M \equiv G_N M(r)$. The conservation of the stress energy tensor $\nabla_\mu T_\nu^\mu = 0$ imposes additional relations among the components in $(\sigma, -p_r, -p_\theta, -p_\phi)$. We refer to the review work by [10] where, in particular, a self gravitating droplet with anisotropic pressure was taken as the source. It is based on smearing a point mass delta function distribution by introducing a Gaussian mass density $\sigma(r)$ of finite width and which determined the functional form of $M(r)$ in terms of an incomplete Euler gamma function. We shall not pursue this route, just fix M to a constant and focus on the vacuum solutions only.

Given $\rho(r = 0^+) = 2G_N M$, the above expression for $k^2(r)$ in eq-(2.5) has the following properties :

- (i) when $r \rightarrow 0^+$, $k \rightarrow \infty$, one recovers the expected ultraviolet limit at infinitesimally small distances approaching zero. i.e. it will take an infinite energy to probe $r = 0^+$.
- (ii) when $r \rightarrow \infty$, $k \rightarrow 0$, one recovers the expect infrared limit at infinite large distances.

(iii) when $\frac{r}{2G_N M} \ll 1 \Rightarrow k^2 \sim (2G_* M/r)$; i.e. when r is much smaller than the standard black hole horizon radius $2G_N M$, one arrives at an energy-scale dependence of the form $k \sim r^{-1/2}$. This behavior should be compared with the “naive” dependence $k \sim 1/r$.

(iv) At Planck scales $r \sim L_P$, the condition (iii) implies $M \gg m_P$, which in turn leads to $k^2 \sim M m_P \gg m_P^2$, so the energy $k \sim \sqrt{M m_P}$ required to explore the Planck scale size regions would be *much higher* than the Planck mass.

²One must exclude $r = 0$ in eq-(2.4) due to the requirement $\rho(r = 0) = 0$, and $\rho(r = 0^+) = 2G_N M$ resulting from the discontinuity of the metric at $r = 0$

(v) Had one chosen an areal radial function of the form $\rho_\lambda(r) = r(1 - \lambda e^{-r/2G_N M})^{-1}$, $\lambda \neq 1$, the value of k^2 as $r \rightarrow 0$, is $\frac{G_* \lambda}{G_N(1-\lambda)} \neq \infty$ and would *no* longer be infinite. This is not compatible with the ultraviolet completion program of asymptotic safety.

(vi) The choice $k = 1/r$ is associated to an areal-radial function $\rho(r)$ which is derived from the equality

$$G_N \frac{1}{1 + [G_N k^2(r)/G_*]} = G_N \frac{1}{1 + [G_N/G_* r^2]} = G_N \frac{r}{\rho(r)} \quad (2.7)$$

and leading to

$$\rho(r) = r + \frac{G_N}{G_* r} \quad (2.8)$$

the above expression for $\rho(r)$ has the correct behavior at large distances $\rho(r) \sim r$ but it *blows* up at $r = 0$. Consequently, it does not have the correct boundary condition $\rho(r = 0) = 0$. The functional form (2.8) is reminiscent of the minimal length modified stringy uncertainty relations since $\rho(r)$ defined by eq-(2.8) has a *minimum* value of $\rho_{min} = 2\sqrt{(G_N/G_*)}$ at $r_* = \sqrt{(G_N/G_*)}$.

The construction presented here can also be extended to metrics which are diffeomorphic but **not** isometric to the (Anti) de Sitter-Schwarzschild metrics

$$(ds)^2 = \left(1 - \frac{2G_N M}{\rho(r)} - \frac{\Lambda_0}{3} \rho(r)^2\right) (dt)^2 - \left(1 - \frac{2G_N M}{\rho(r)} - \frac{\Lambda_0}{3} \rho(r)^2\right)^{-1} (d\rho(r))^2 - (\rho(r))^2 (d\Omega)^2 \quad (2.9)$$

$\Lambda_0 > 0$ for de Sitter space and $\Lambda_0 < 0$ for Anti de Sitter. By writing (for $r > 0$)

$$1 - \frac{2G(k(r))M}{r} - \frac{\Lambda(k(r))}{3} r^2 = 1 - \frac{2G_N M}{\rho(r)} - \frac{\Lambda_0}{3} \rho(r)^2, \quad r > 0 \quad (2.10)$$

and establishing a $k \leftrightarrow r$ correspondence one can incorporate the Renormalization Group flow of the coupling $G(k(r))$ and the running cosmological constant $\Lambda(k(r))$ into the areal-radial function $\rho(r)$ in the right hand side of (2.10). The scale dependence of $\Lambda(k)$ in the de Sitter case was found to be [15]

$$\Lambda(k) = \Lambda_0 + \frac{b G(k)}{4} k^4, \quad \Lambda_0 > 0 \quad (2.11)$$

where b is positive numerical constant. In $D = 4$, the dimensionless gravitational coupling has a nontrivial fixed point $G = G(k)k^2 \rightarrow G_*$ in the $k \rightarrow \infty$ limit, and the dimensionless variable $\Lambda = \Lambda(k)k^{-2}$ has also a nontrivial ultraviolet fixed point $\Lambda_* \neq 0$ [15]. The infrared limits are $\Lambda(k \rightarrow 0) = \Lambda_0 > 0$, $G(k \rightarrow 0) = G_N$. Whereas the ultraviolet limit is $\Lambda(k = \infty) = \infty$; $G(k = \infty) = 0$.

Upon substituting the expressions for $G(k)$, $\Lambda(k)$ (2.1,2.11) into the left hand side of eq-(2.10), it furnishes a *new* energy-scale relation $k(r)$ in terms of the given areal-radial

function $\rho(r)$ of eq-(1.5) appearing in the right hand side of eq-(2.12). The functional relation is now given by the solutions of a quadratic equation

$$k^2(r) = \frac{-B + \sqrt{B^2 - 4AC}}{2A} \quad (2.12a)$$

where we chose the plus sign in front of the square root to ensure $k^2(r) \geq 0$. The expressions for A, B, C are respectively

$$A(r) \equiv \frac{bG_N}{12} r^2 > 0, \quad B(r) \equiv \frac{G_N}{G_*} \left(\frac{\Lambda_0}{3} (\rho(r)^2 - r^2) + \frac{2G_N M}{\rho(r)} \right) > 0$$

$$C(r) \equiv 2G_N M \left(\frac{1}{\rho(r)} - \frac{1}{r} \right) + \frac{\Lambda_0}{3} (\rho(r)^2 - r^2) \quad (2.12b)$$

Due to the more complicated functional expression for $k^2(r)$ in eq-(2.12a) one has to ensure that $k^2(r) \geq 0$ for $r > 0$. Since $\Lambda_0 > 0$, and the areal radial function $\rho(r) = r(1 - e^{-r/2G_N M})^{-1} \geq r$, the values of $C(r)$ in eq-(2.12b) will cease to be *negative* in the crossover region determined by the value of $r = r_c$ such that $C(r_c) = 0$. Consequently, in the region $r > r_c$, $C(r) > 0$, the values of $k^2(r) < 0$ will become negative which are unphysical. $k^2(r)$ becomes 0 at $r = r_c$ and $r = \infty$.

Before deriving the value of the crossover point r_c , a careful inspection of eqs-(2.12a, 2.12b) based on the graph of the areal-radial function in the region $r > 0$, $\rho(r) = r(1 - e^{-r/2G_N M})^{-1} \geq r$, reveals that $k^2(r \rightarrow \infty) \rightarrow 0$, and $k^2(r \rightarrow 0^+) \rightarrow \infty$ as expected.

When $r \rightarrow 0^+ \Rightarrow 4AC \rightarrow 0$, and one can perform the binomial expansion in

$$k^2 = \frac{-B + \sqrt{B^2 - 4AC}}{2A} = \frac{-B + B \sqrt{1 - 4AC/B^2}}{2A} \sim$$

$$\frac{-B + B(1 - 2AC/B^2)}{2A} = \frac{-C}{B} \quad (2.13)$$

Hence, in the limit $r \rightarrow 0^+$, given that $\rho(r = 0^+) = 2G_N M$, eq-(2.13) yields

$$k^2(r \rightarrow 0^+) \rightarrow \lim_{r \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{-C}{B} \rightarrow$$

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{(2G_N M/r)}{(G_N/G_*) (1 + (\Lambda_0/3) (2G_N M)^2)} = \lim_{r \rightarrow 0^+} \beta \frac{G_* M}{r} \rightarrow \infty \quad (2.14)$$

therefore, from eq-(2.14) one can infer that the ultraviolet scaling is of the form

$$k^2 r \sim \beta (G_* M), \quad \beta \equiv \frac{2}{1 + (\Lambda_0/3) (2G_N M)^2}, \quad \Lambda_0 > 0 \quad (2.15)$$

In the infrared limit $r \rightarrow \infty$, $A \rightarrow \infty$, $B \rightarrow 0$, $C \rightarrow 0$, $\rho(r) \sim r$, one has trivially $k^2 \rightarrow 0$.

It was not necessary to solve for $k^2(r)$ in eq-(2.10) in order to glean the infrared and ultraviolet behavior. One can infer from the ultraviolet scaling behavior, given by $k^2 r \sim \beta G_* M$, ($\beta \neq 2$) when $r \rightarrow 0^+$, $k \rightarrow \infty$, that the products $k^2 r$; $k^4 r^2$ remain finite so

the left and right hand sides of eq-(2.10) coincide ($\rho(r = 0^+) = 2G_N M$). Conversely, the infrared scaling behavior is $k^4 r^2 \rightarrow 0$, when $r \rightarrow \infty, k \rightarrow 0, \rho(r) \sim r$, such that eq-(2.10) holds given that $G(k = 0) = G_N, \Lambda(k = 0) = \Lambda_0$.

Lets determine the value of the crossover point r_c that forces $k^2(r > r_c) < 0$ to be negative. It is determined from the solution to the transcendental equation

$$\frac{\Lambda_0}{3} \frac{(2 - e^{-r_c/2G_N M})}{(1 - e^{-r_c/2G_N M})^2} r_c^2 - \frac{2G_N M}{r_c} = 0 \quad (2.16)$$

The transcendental equation (2.16) is greatly simplified when $r_c \gg 2G_N M$. Given $\frac{\Lambda_0}{3} = \frac{1}{R_H^2}$ ($R_H =$ Hubble radius), eq-(2.16) leads to

$$\frac{2\Lambda_0}{3} r_c^2 - \frac{2G_N M}{r_c} \simeq 0 \Rightarrow r_c \simeq 2^{-\frac{1}{3}} [(2G_N M) R_H^2]^{\frac{1}{3}}, \quad \frac{\Lambda_0}{3} = \frac{1}{R_H^2} \quad (2.17a)$$

so that a simple solution r_c given by (2.17a) is found in the regime when

$$2G_N M \ll r_c \ll R_H \quad (2.17b)$$

To sum up, the use of the areal-radial function $\rho(r)$ of eq-(1.5) in eq-(2.10), for $r > 0$, does not lead to a fully satisfactory energy-scale $k(r)$ functional relation due to the fact that $k^2(r) < 0$ when $r > r_c$, despite that $k^2(r \rightarrow 0^+) \rightarrow \infty$, and $k^2(r \rightarrow \infty) \rightarrow 0$. What this entails is that one cannot accommodate two running couplings $G(k(r)), \Lambda(k(r))$, for all values of $r > 0$, within one single function : the areal-radial function $\rho(r)$. The analysis of this section can be generalized to higher dimensions.

To finalize this section we should mention that it was pointed out by Donoghue [14] that the standard perturbative quantization of Einstein gravity leads to a well-defined, finite prediction for the leading large distance correction to Newton's gravitational potential energy, after restoring \hbar and c , given by

$$V(r) = -G_N \frac{Mm}{r} \left(1 - \frac{G_N(M+m)}{2c^2 r} - \frac{\alpha G_N \hbar}{c^3 r^2} \right), \quad \alpha = \frac{118}{15\pi} \quad (2.18a)$$

the first correction proportional to $\frac{(M+m)}{r}$ is a purely kinematic effect of classical general relativity, while the second correction proportional to $1/r^2$ is a quantum effect.

The modified potential energy (2.14) can also be rewritten in terms of another areal function $\tilde{\rho}(r)$ differing from eq-(1.5), as

$$V(r) = -G_N \frac{Mm}{\tilde{\rho}(r)}, \quad \tilde{\rho}(r) \equiv \frac{r}{1 - G_N(M+m)/2c^2 r - \alpha G_N \hbar / c^3 r^2} \quad (2.18b)$$

the new areal-radial function does obey the required boundary conditions described in section 1. $\tilde{\rho}(r = 0) = 0$; and asymptotically $\tilde{\rho}(r) \sim r$. Furthermore, when $r \rightarrow -r$, and $(M, m) \rightarrow (-M, -m)$ we have $\tilde{\rho}(r) \rightarrow -\tilde{\rho}(r)$ so that a metric of the form (1.2) remains invariant and can be extended to the region $r < 0$.

3 Asymptotic Safety and the Geometry of Phase Space

The Lagrange-Finsler geometry of the tangent bundle (Hamilton-Cartan geometry of the cotangent bundle) of spacetimes has been the subject of intensive study in recent years [18], [19]. It is better understood now that the Planck-scale modifications of the particle dispersion relations can be encoded in the nontrivial geometrical properties of momentum space [20]. When both spacetime curvature and Planck-scale deformations of momentum space are present, it is expected that the nontrivial geometry of momentum space and spacetime get intertwined. The interplay between spacetime curvature and non-trivial momentum space effects was essential in the notion of “relative locality” and in the deepening of the relativity principle [20].

The authors [21], [22] have described the Hamilton geometry of the phase space of particles whose motion is characterized by general dispersion relations. Explicit examples of two models for Planck-scale modified dispersion relations, inspired from the q -de Sitter and κ -Poincare quantum groups, were considered. In the first case they found the expressions for the momentum and position dependent curvature of spacetime and momentum space, while for the second case the manifold is flat and only the momentum space possesses a nonzero, momentum dependent curvature.

Starting with the geometry of the cotangent bundle (phase space), it was shown in [23] that the maximal proper force condition, in the case of a uniformly accelerated observer of mass m along the x axis, leads to a minimum value of x lying *inside* the Rindler wedge and given by the black hole horizon radius $2Gm$. Whereas in the uniform circular motion case, the maximal proper force condition implied that the radius of the circle cannot exceed the value of the horizon radius $2Gm$. A correspondence was found between the black hole horizon radius and a singularity in the curvature of momentum space. In this final section we argue how the Asymptotic Safety program in gravity [14], [15], combined with the phase space geometry seem to be a proper arena for a space-time-matter unification.

The $8D$ cotangent space/phase-space associated to a $4D$ spacetime has for coordinates \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p} and the infinitesimal interval in phase space is

$$(d\sigma)^2 = g_{ij}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}) dx^i dx^j + h_{ab}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}) (dp^a - N_i^a(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}) dx^i) (dp^b - N_j^b(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}) dx^j) \quad (3.1)$$

where the N -coefficients define a nonlinear connection, an N -connection structure. For rigorous details we refer to [18], [19]. In a very particular case one recovers the ordinary linear connection if $N_i^a(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}) = \Gamma_{bi}^a(\mathbf{x})p^b$.

The vacuum field equations were given by [19]

$$\mathcal{R}_{ij} - \frac{1}{2} (\mathcal{R} + \mathcal{S}) g_{ij} = 0, \quad i, j = 1, 2, 3, 4. \quad (3.2)$$

$$\mathcal{S}_{ab} - \frac{1}{2} (\mathcal{R} + \mathcal{S}) h_{ab} = 0, \quad a, b = 1, 2, 3, 4. \quad (3.3)$$

where \mathcal{R}_{ij} , \mathcal{R} and \mathcal{S}_{ab} , \mathcal{S} are the Ricci and scalar curvatures of spacetime and the internal momentum space, respectively. The geometry of the cotangent bundle is very intricate and it involves six distinguished curvature tensors, five distinguished torsion tensors and the nonlinear connections components [18], [19]. Hence, to find exact solutions to the very intricate set of eqs-(3.2,3.3) is highly nontrivial [19], [24].

The additional momentum-dependent behavior of the field equations (3.2,3.3) (beside the \mathbf{x} -dependence) could cast more light into the study of the Renormalization Group (RG) improvement of Einstein's equations which was based on the possibility that Quantum Einstein Gravity might be non-perturbatively renormalizable and asymptotically safe due to the presence of interacting ultraviolet fixed points [14]. As seen in the prior section, one has k (energy) dependent modifications to the Newtonian coupling $G(k)$, the cosmological constant $\Lambda(k)$ and energy dependent spacetime metrics $g_{ij,(k)}(x)$. Namely, what one is aiming for is in establishing a quantum spacetime geometry/classical phase geometry correspondence $g_{ij,(k)}(x) \leftrightarrow g_{ij}(x, E)$.

Let us insert directly the energy dependence of $G(k)$ of eq-(2.1) into the components associated to the Schwarzschild metric, by setting $E = k$ and *without* imposing any energy-distance relationship $k = k(r)$ as done previously. The components of the spacetime metric are now given directly in terms of r and E (there is no $E(r)$ relation)

$$g_{tt}(r, E) = 1 - \frac{2G(E)M}{r}, \quad g_{rr}(r, E) = - (g_{tt}(r, E))^{-1} \quad (3.4)$$

The angular part can be chosen to be $r^2(d\Omega)^2$ as usual. The task now is to find the expressions (if possible) for the internal momentum space metric $h_{ab}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p})$, and the nonlinear connection $N(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p})$ components, such that the above vacuum field equations (3.2,3.3) are satisfied when the spacetime metric components $g_{ij}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p})$ are given by eq-(3.4). There is no guarantee a priori that exact solutions of eqs-(3.2,3.3) of this type exist, nevertheless it is worthy of exploration.

To conclude, related to establishing a quantum geometry/classical phase correspondence $g_{ij,(k)}(x) \leftrightarrow g_{ij}(x, E)$, we should recall that in the Deformation Quantization program there is a one-to-one correspondence between operators in a Hilbert space and functions in a classical phase space $A(x, p)$ subject to a noncommutative (Moyal, Fedosov, Kontsevich, ...) star product $A(x, p) * B(x, p)$. Noncommutative and Nonassociative star products were constructed by studying non-geometric string (M-theory) backgrounds with fluxes. These novel star products and their implications to Nonassociative Gravity are currently under intense investigation. In particular, they might provide important clues in order to solve the membrane quantization problem, see [25] and references therein. It is warranted to explore the connection between the asymptotic safety program associated to the path integral quantization procedure in quantum gravity and deformation quantization via the geometry of the cotangent bundle (phase space) of spacetime.

APPENDIX A : Schwarzschild-like solutions in $D > 3$

In this Appendix we follow closely the calculations of the static spherically symmetric *vacuum* solutions to Einstein's equations in any dimension $D > 3$. Let us start with the

line element with signature $(-, +, +, +, \dots, +)$

$$ds^2 = -e^{\mu(r)}(dt)^2 + e^{\nu(r)}(dr)^2 + R^2(r)\tilde{g}_{ij}d\xi^i d\xi^j. \quad (A.1)$$

where the areal radial function $\rho(r)$ is now denoted by $R(r)$ and which must *not* be *confused* with the scalar curvature \mathcal{R} . Here, the metric \tilde{g}_{ij} corresponds to a homogeneous space and $i, j = 3, 4, \dots, D - 2$ and the temporal and radial indices are denoted by 1, 2 respectively. In our text we denoted the temporal index by 0. The only non-vanishing Christoffel symbols are given in terms of the following partial derivatives with respect to the r variable and denoted with a prime

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_{21}^1 &= \frac{1}{2}\mu', & \Gamma_{22}^2 &= \frac{1}{2}\nu', & \Gamma_{11}^2 &= \frac{1}{2}\mu'e^{\mu-\nu}, \\ \Gamma_{ij}^2 &= -e^{-\nu}RR'\tilde{g}_{ij}, & \Gamma_{2j}^i &= \frac{R'}{R}\delta_j^i, & \Gamma_{jk}^i &= \tilde{\Gamma}_{jk}^i, \end{aligned} \quad (A.2)$$

and the only nonvanishing Riemann tensor are

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}_{212}^1 &= -\frac{1}{2}\mu'' - \frac{1}{4}\mu'^2 + \frac{1}{4}\nu'\mu', & \mathcal{R}_{i1j}^1 &= -\frac{1}{2}\mu'e^{-\nu}RR'\tilde{g}_{ij}, \\ \mathcal{R}_{121}^2 &= e^{\mu-\nu}(\frac{1}{2}\mu'' + \frac{1}{4}\mu'^2 - \frac{1}{4}\nu'\mu'), & \mathcal{R}_{i2j}^2 &= e^{-\nu}(\frac{1}{2}\nu'RR' - RR'')\tilde{g}_{ij}, \\ \mathcal{R}_{jkl}^i &= \tilde{R}_{jkl}^i - R'^2e^{-\nu}(\delta_k^i\tilde{g}_{jl} - \delta_l^i\tilde{g}_{jk}). \end{aligned} \quad (A.3)$$

The vacuum field equations are

$$\mathcal{R}_{11} = e^{\mu-\nu}(\frac{1}{2}\mu'' + \frac{1}{4}\mu'^2 - \frac{1}{4}\mu'\nu' + \frac{(D-2)}{2}\mu'\frac{R'}{R}) = 0, \quad (A.4)$$

$$\mathcal{R}_{22} = -\frac{1}{2}\mu'' - \frac{1}{4}\mu'^2 + \frac{1}{4}\mu'\nu' + (D-2)(\frac{1}{2}\nu'\frac{R'}{R} - \frac{R''}{R}) = 0, \quad (A.5)$$

and

$$\mathcal{R}_{ij} = \frac{e^{-\nu}}{R^2}(\frac{1}{2}(\nu' - \mu')RR' - RR'' - (D-3)R'^2)\tilde{g}_{ij} + \frac{k}{R^2}(D-3)\tilde{g}_{ij} = 0, \quad (A.6)$$

where $k = \pm 1$, depending if \tilde{g}_{ij} refers to positive or negative curvature. From the combination $e^{-\mu+\nu}\mathcal{R}_{11} + \mathcal{R}_{22} = 0$ we get

$$\mu' + \nu' = \frac{2R''}{R'}. \quad (A.7)$$

The solution of this equation is

$$\mu + \nu = \ln R'^2 + C, \quad (A.8)$$

where C is an integration constant that one sets to *zero* if one wishes to recover the flat Minkowski spacetime metric in spherical coordinates in the asymptotic region $r \rightarrow \infty$.

Substituting (A.7) into the equation (A.6) we find

$$e^{-\nu} (\nu' RR' - 2RR'' - (D-3)R'^2) = -k(D-3) \quad (A.9)$$

or

$$\gamma' RR' + 2\gamma RR'' + (D-3)\gamma R'^2 = k(D-3), \quad (A.10)$$

where

$$\gamma = e^{-\nu}. \quad (A.11)$$

The solution of (A.10) for an ordinary D -dim spacetime (one temporal dimension) corresponding to a $D-2$ -dim sphere for the homogeneous space can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma &= \left(1 - \frac{16\pi G_D M}{(D-2)\Omega_{D-2} R^{D-3}} \right) \left(\frac{dR}{dr} \right)^{-2} \Rightarrow \\ g_{rr} = e^\nu &= \left(1 - \frac{16\pi G_D M}{(D-2)\Omega_{D-2} R^{D-3}} \right)^{-1} \left(\frac{dR}{dr} \right)^2. \end{aligned} \quad (A.12)$$

where Ω_{D-2} is the appropriate solid angle in $D-2$ -dim and G_D is the D -dim gravitational constant whose units are $(length)^{D-2}$. Thus $G_D M$ has units of $(length)^{D-3}$ as it should. When $D=4$ as a result that the 2-dim solid angle is $\Omega_2 = 4\pi$ one recovers from eq-(A.12) the 4-dim Schwarzschild solution. The solution in eq-(A.12) is consistent with Gauss law and Poisson's equation in $D-1$ spatial dimensions obtained in the Newtonian limit.

For the most general case of the $D-2$ -dim homogeneous space we should write

$$-\nu = \ln\left(k - \frac{\beta_D G_D M}{R^{D-3}}\right) - 2 \ln R'. \quad (A.13)$$

β_D is a constant equal to $16\pi/(D-2)\Omega_{D-2}$, where Ω_{D-2} is the solid angle in the $D-2$ transverse dimensions to r, t and is given by $2\pi^{(D-1)/2}/\Gamma[(D-1)/2]$.

Thus, according to (A.8) we get

$$\mu = \ln\left(k - \frac{\beta_D G_D M}{R^{D-3}}\right) + \text{constant}. \quad (A.14)$$

we can set the constant to zero, and this means the line element (A.1) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} ds^2 &= -\left(k - \frac{\beta_D G_D M}{R^{D-3}}\right)(dt)^2 + \frac{(dR/dr)^2}{\left(k - \frac{\beta_D G_D M}{R^{D-3}}\right)}(dr)^2 + R^2(r)\tilde{g}_{ij}d\xi^i d\xi^j = \\ &-\left(k - \frac{\beta_D G_D M}{R^{D-3}}\right)(dt)^2 + \frac{1}{\left(k - \frac{\beta_D G_D M}{R^{D-3}}\right)}(dR)^2 + R^2(r)\tilde{g}_{ij}d\xi^i d\xi^j \end{aligned} \quad (A.15)$$

One can verify, that the equations (A.4)-(A.6), leading to eqs-(A.9)-(A.10), do *not* determine the form $R(r)$. It is also interesting to observe that the only effect of the homogeneous metric \tilde{g}_{ij} is reflected in the $k = \pm 1$ parameter, associated with a positive (negative)

constant scalar curvature of the homogeneous $D - 2$ -dim space. $k = 0$ corresponds to a spatially flat $D - 2$ -dim section. The metric solution in eq-(1.2) is associated to a different signature than the one chosen in this Appendix, and corresponds to $D = 4$ and $k = 1$.

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