



How to create a horizon in the lab and

the route to measure entanglement in experiments

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Today's talk

The propagation of waves in nonlinear media may be controlled to engineer situations where the waves propagate as though they were on an effectively curved geometry, like around a black hole or in an inflating universe. This enables the experimental study of field theories on curved geometries.

Controlled propagation of waves \rightarrow effective geometry \rightarrow linearised excitations (engineered nonlinearity) (quantum field)

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LKB



General Relativity identifies gravity with curvature of spacetime Point of no return = event horizon



In a quantum fluid
$$\psi = \sqrt{n}e^{-i(\omega t + \phi(r))}$$

Fluid velocity $v_0 = \frac{\hbar}{m}\nabla\phi_0$

Speed of sound
$$\, {
m c}_s \propto \sqrt{{g n_0 \over m}}$$

m - massq – interaction constant n_0 – mean field density

Wave eq for collective excitations of quantum fluid $\psi = (\psi_0 + \psi_1)e^{-i(\omega t + \phi(r))}$

$$-\partial_t \left(\frac{n_0}{c_s^2} (\partial_t n_1 + v_0 \nabla n_1) \right) + \nabla \left(n_0 \nabla n_1 - \frac{n_0 v_0}{c_s^2} \partial_t n_1 + v_0 \nabla n_1 \right) = 0$$

Relativistic form of wave eq for collective excitations: $|\eta|^{-1/2} \partial_{\mu} \left(\sqrt{|\eta|} \eta^{\mu\nu} \partial_{\nu} \psi_1 \right) = 0$ with $\eta_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} -(c_s^2 - v_0^2) & -v_o^x & -v_o^y \\ -v_o^x & 1 & 0 \\ -v_o^y & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ Surface gravity $\kappa = \frac{1}{2c_0(x)} \frac{d}{dx}$

$$\kappa = \frac{1}{2c_s(x)} \frac{d}{dx} [v_0^2(x) - c_s^2(x)]|_{x_H}$$

Motion of collective excitations in inhomogeneous fluid flow \leftrightarrow scalar field on curved spacetime

Control parameters: v_0 , c_s

In a (quantum) fluid

Fluid velocity
$$v_0 = \frac{\hbar}{m} \nabla \phi_0$$
 Speed of sound $c_s \propto \sqrt{\frac{g n_0}{m}}$

m – mass g – interaction constant n_0 – mean field density

Possible geometries with
$$\eta_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} -(c_s^2 - v_0^2) & -v_o^x & -v_o^y \\ -v_o^x & 1 & 0 \\ -v_o^y & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

(i) transsonic flow along 1 spatial dimension \rightarrow stationary 1D spacetime Horizon where $v_0=c_s$

(ii) radially transsonic flow in 2 spatial dimensions \rightarrow stationary spherically symmetric 2D spacetime Horizon where $v_r = c_s$

(iii) radially and azimuthally transsonic flow in 2 spatial dimensions \rightarrow stationary rotating spacetime Horizon where $v_r = c_s$ Ergosurface where $|v_0| = c_s$



Theory: Jacquet *et al* in prep 2024 + EPJD **76** 152 (2022), Exp: Falque *et al* arXiv:2311.01392



Agullo et al "Event horizons are tunable factories of quantum entanglement" Int. Jour. Mod. Phys. D 31 2242008 (2022)





Dynamics in the cavity plane described by Gross-Pitaevskii (Nonlinear Schrödinger) equation:

$$\mathrm{i}\hbar\frac{\partial\psi}{\partial t} = \left(-\frac{\hbar^2\nabla^2}{2m_{LP}^*} + gn\right)\psi - \frac{i\hbar\gamma}{2}\psi + P(r,t)$$

Driven-dissipative dynamics \rightarrow Out-of-equilibrium system

 $g_{
m polariton-polariton}$ interaction constant

 γ Losses P pump



Dynamics in the cavity plane described by Gross-Pitaevskii (Nonlinear Schrödinger) equation:

Microcavity polaritons

$$\mathrm{i}\hbarrac{\partial\psi}{\partial t} = \left(-rac{\hbar^2
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Driven-dissipative dynamics \rightarrow Out-of-equilibrium system

stant

Losses γ \mathbf{P} pump

Our sample: DBR GaAs, QW InGaAs, Q = 3000, T=4K, $\hbar\gamma/2 = 90 \mu eV$

GPE:
$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \left(-\frac{\hbar^2 \nabla^2}{2m_{LP}^*} + gn\right)\psi - \frac{i\hbar\gamma}{2}\psi + P(r,t)$$

Linearise GPE around steady-state solution $\psi = (\sqrt{n_0} + e^{-i\gamma/2}\psi_1)e^{-i(\omega_p t + \phi_p r)}$

 $_{\rm \rightarrow}$ Bogoliubov – de Gennes dynamics for ψ_1



GPE:
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WKB dispersion relation $\omega^{\pm}(\delta k) = \pm \sqrt{(\alpha^2 k^4 + (k^2 + m_{det}^2)c_s^2 - i\frac{\gamma}{2})}$ nonlinearities pump-dependent spectral linewidth mass





Expansion of acoustic field in terms of excitations

 $\psi_1 = \int d\omega (f_\omega \hat{a}_\omega + f_\omega^* \hat{a}_\omega^\dagger)$

In fluid rest frame, excitations have frequencies

$$\omega^{\pm}(\delta k) = \pm \sqrt{(\alpha^2 k^4 + k^2 + m_{det}^2 c_s^2 - i\frac{\gamma}{2})}$$

Norm of excitations = Noether charge

$$Q(f_{\omega}) = i \int dx (f_{\omega}^* \partial_t f_{\omega} - \partial_t f_{\omega}^* f_{\omega})$$

In fluid rest frame:

$$\label{eq:constraint} \begin{split} \omega &> \omega_{laser} \text{ positive-norm mode} \\ \omega &< \omega_{laser} \text{ negative-norm mode} \end{split}$$



1.4836

1.4835

-0.5

0.0

k [µm⁻¹]

0.5

 $\hbar\omega_{laser}$

Experimental scheme



LKB

Experimental scheme



LKB



How to create the effective spacetime?

Falque K *et al.*, arXiv:2311.01392

$$\mathbf{F}_p(r,t) = e^{\frac{-r^2}{w(r)}} e^{\theta_p(r)} e^{-\imath \omega_p t}$$



 $w(r) = 180 \mu m$



LKB







$$v_0(x) = \frac{v_d - v_u}{2} tanh(\frac{x - x_H}{w_H}) + \frac{v_d + v_u}{2}$$





LKB





Theory: Jacquet *et al* in prep 2024 Exp: Falque *et al* arXiv:2311.01392



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Experiments with polaritons

High-resolution method to measure spectrum

PRL 129 103601 2022, PRB 107 174507 2023

- All-optical control of curvature
 - tunable surface gravity $\kappa \rightarrow$ observe two-mode squeezing
- Measurement of spectrum → QFT

Experiment arXiv:2311.01392 Theory: EPJD **76** 152 2022 PRL **130** 111501 2023



Quantum optics experiments

- Measure phase and density \rightarrow access full field statistics and dynamics
- Homodyne detection to enhance signal strength and measure quantum correlations

• Enhance strength of emission and degree of entanglement by probing with squeezed state

I Agullo *et al* PRL **128** 091301 2022 arXiv:2307.06215

Where do we go from here?



Entanglement in rotating geometries?

Theory: PRD 109 105024 2024



Winter school analogue gravity/cosmology in Benasque 7th - 17th January 2026