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Universal thermodynamics in different gravity theories: Modified entropy on the horizons



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ABSTRACT

The paper deals with universal thermodynamics for FRW model of the universe bounded by apparent (or event) horizon. Assuming Hawking temperature on the horizon, the unified first law is examined on the horizon for different gravity theories. The results show that equilibrium configuration is preserved with a modification to Bekenstein entropy on the horizon.

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It is well known today that recent observational predictions [1] divide the physicists into two groups. The first group has been trying to explain this late time acceleration within the framework of standard cosmology, assuming the existence of an exotic matter with negative pressure (called dark energy (DE)). But till now the nature of DE is completely unknown to us and is an unresolved problem in modern theoretical physics (see [2,3] and references therein). On the other hand, the second group is of the opinion of a modified gravity theory - a modification of Einstein's general relativity. A common and widely used modified theory is f(R)-gravity theory where the Lagrangian density R (the Ricci scalar) in the Einstein-Hilbert action is replaced by an arbitrary function of R, *i.e.*, f(R) (see [4] for a review and references therein). Also, there are other modified gravity theories, namely Scalar–Tensor Theory, Brane world scenario, f(G), f(R, G)and f(T) gravity theories, where T is the usual torsion scalar, $G = R_{\mu\gamma\rho\sigma}R^{\mu\gamma\rho\sigma} - R_{\mu\gamma}R^{\mu\gamma} + R^2$ is the Gauss–Bonnet invariant term, and $R_{\mu\gamma\rho\sigma}$ and $R_{\mu\gamma}$ are the usual Riemann curvature tensor and Ricci tensor, respectively. These modified theories [5-10] are considered as gravitational alternatives for DE and may serve as dark matter [11].

Further inspection of a gravity theory from thermodynamical viewpoint is also an interesting issue in modern theoretical physics. The deep connection between gravity and thermodynamics is strongly believed due to Ads/CFT correspondence [12] and black hole thermodynamics [13]. This belief was put one step forward by the seminal works of Jacobson [14] and Padmanabhan [15]. By introducing the local Rindler horizon and assuming

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the Clausius relation $\delta Q = TdS$ for all local Rindler causal horizons through each spacetime point, Jacobson deduced the Einstein's field equations from the proportionality of entropy (*S*) to the horizon area (*A*). Here δQ stands for the variation of the heat flow and *T* is the Unruh temperature measured by an accelerated observer just inside the horizon. Although Jacobson derived the equivalence along null directions, it is speculated that the results may also be true along any other direction in the tangent to the spacetime. Padmanabhan, in the reverse way, showed that field equations in Einstein gravity as well as in Lanczos–Lovelock gravity for a spherically symmetric spacetime can be expressed in the form of thermodynamic identity: dE = TdS - PdV. In this derivation, the modified terms could emerge in quantum pictures and hence one may think that thermodynamics can profile gravity beyond the classical level.

Alternatively, relevant to universal thermodynamics, Hayward studied thermodynamics for dynamical black hole [16,17]. He introduced the notion of trapping horizon in 4D Einstein gravity for non-stationary spherically symmetric spacetimes and showed that Einstein's equations are equivalent to the unified first law. Then, projecting the unified first law along any tangential direction (ξ) to the trapping horizon, one is able to derive the first law of thermodynamics [18–20], *i.e.*, Clausius relation of the dynamical black hole, *i.e.*, $\langle A\psi, \xi \rangle = \frac{\kappa}{8\pi G} \langle dA, \xi \rangle$, where energy flux ψ is termed as energy supply vector.

From the point of view of universal thermodynamics, we consider our universe as a non-stationary gravitational system. Further, from cosmological viewpoint the homogeneous and isotropic FRW universe may be considered as dynamical spherically symmetric spacetime. Here we have only inner trapping horizon which coincides with the apparent horizon and it is possible to consider thermodynamical analysis using unified first law. Cai and Kim [21] derived the Friedmann equations with arbitrary spatial curvature

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starting with the fundamental relation $\delta Q = TdS$ to the apparent horizon of the FRW universe. They have considered Hawking temperature and Bekenstein entropy respectively as

$$T = \frac{1}{2\pi R_A}, \qquad S = \frac{\pi R_A^2}{G} \tag{1}$$

on the apparent horizon with R_A , the radius of the apparent horizon. Further, they have shown the equivalence between the thermodynamical laws and modified Einstein field equations in Gauss-Bonnet gravity and more general Lovelock gravity. Subsequently Cai et al. [18–20] have extensively studied unified first law in FRW universe not only for Einstein gravity but also in Lovelock gravity, Scalar–Tensor theory [18] and Brane-world scenario [20]. In this context, Eling et al. [22] have shown for f(R) gravity theory that there should be entropy production term in the Clausius relation and it can be associated to shear viscosity of the horizon in pure Einstein gravity. Very recently, thermodynamical laws have been studied [23,24] in f(R) gravity as well as in generalized f(R) gravity with a modified version of the entropy of the horizon. In the present work, we have modified the horizon entropy suitably so that Clausius relation is automatically satisfied.

We start with homogeneous and isotropic FRW metric as

$$ds^{2} = -dt^{2} + \frac{a^{2}(t)}{1 - kr^{2}}dr^{2} + R^{2}d\Omega_{2}^{2}$$

= $h_{ab}dx^{a}dx^{b} + R^{2}d\Omega_{2}^{2}$, (2)

where R = ar is the area radius, $h_{ab} = \text{diag}(-1, \frac{a^2}{1-kr^2})$ is the metric of 2-space ($x^0 = t, x^1 = r$) and $k = 0, \pm 1$ denotes the curvature scalar. The above FRW metric can be written in double-null form as [18]

$$ds^{2} = -2d\xi^{+}d\xi^{-} + R^{2}d\Omega_{2}^{2}.$$
(3)

Here,

$$\partial_{\pm} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi^{\pm}} = -\sqrt{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \mp \frac{\sqrt{1 - kr^2}}{a} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \right) \tag{4}$$

are future pointing null vectors. The trapping horizon (denoted by R_T) is defined as $\partial_+ R|_{R=R_T} = 0$, which gives

$$R_T = \frac{1}{\sqrt{H^2 + \frac{k}{a^2}}} = R_A.$$
 (5)

The surface gravity is defined as

$$\kappa = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{-h}}\partial_a \left(\sqrt{-h}h^{ab}\partial_b R\right),\tag{6}$$

so for any horizon (with area radius R_h) it can be written as

$$\kappa = -\left(\frac{R_h}{R_A}\right)^2 \left(\frac{1 - \frac{R_A}{2HR_A}}{R_h}\right),\tag{7}$$

and it becomes,

$$\kappa = -\frac{1}{R_A} \left(1 - \frac{\dot{R}_A}{2HR_A} \right) = -\frac{1 - \epsilon}{R_A},\tag{8}$$

for apparent horizon with $\epsilon = \frac{\dot{R}_A}{2HR_A}$. Note that if we assume $\epsilon < 1$, then κ is negative and hence the apparent horizon coincides with inner trapping horizon [16,18,25] (outer trapping horizon is with positive surface gravity). The Misner–Sharp energy [16,25,26] is defined as

$$E = \frac{R}{2G} \left(1 - h^{ab} \partial_a R \partial_b R \right) \tag{9}$$

This is the total energy inside a sphere of radius R. Note that it is purely a geometric quantity and is related to the structure of the spacetime as well as to the Einstein's equations [18]. For the present FRW model of the universe bounded by the apparent horizon the above expression for the energy simplifies to

$$E = \frac{R_A}{2G} = \frac{1}{2G\sqrt{H^2 + \frac{k}{a^2}}}.$$
 (10)

1. f(R)-gravity

In f(R) gravity, the modified Einstein–Hilbert action can be written as (in Jordan frame) [4]

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} f(R) + S_m,$$
 (11)

with S_m as the matter action. Now, variation of *S* with respect to the metric tensor $g_{\mu\nu}$ gives the modified field equations in f(R) gravity as

$$R_{\mu\nu}\frac{\partial f}{\partial R} - \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu}f(R) - \nabla_{\mu}\nabla_{\nu}\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial R}\right) + g_{\mu\nu}\nabla^{2}\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial R}\right) = 8\pi G T_{\mu\nu}, \qquad (12)$$

where $T^{\nu}_{\mu} = \text{diag}(-\rho, p, p, p)$ is the energy-momentum tensor for the matter field in the form of perfect fluid. In particular for viable f(R)-gravity theory if we take

$$f(R) = R + F(R) \tag{13}$$

then the explicit form of the modified field equations for FRW metric are given by

$$H^2 + \frac{k}{a^2} = \frac{8\pi G}{3}\rho_t$$
(14)

and

$$\dot{H} - \frac{k}{a^2} = -4\pi G(\rho_t + p_t),$$
 (15)

with $\rho_t = \rho + \rho_e$ and $p_t = p + p_e$.

The effective energy density ρ_e and effective pressure p_e due to the curvature contribution has the expressions

$$\rho_e = \frac{1}{8\pi G} \left[-\frac{1}{2} (F - RF_1) - 3H \frac{dF_1}{dt} - 3F_1 \left(H^2 + \frac{k}{a^2} \right) \right]$$
(16)

$$\rho_e + p_e = \frac{1}{8\pi G} \left[\frac{d^2 F_1}{dt^2} - H \frac{dF_1}{dt} + 2F_1 \left(\dot{H} - \frac{k}{a^2} \right) \right],\tag{17}$$

where $R = 6(\dot{H} + 2H^2 + \frac{k}{a^2})$ is the curvature scalar and $F_1 = \frac{dF}{dR}$. The energy conservation relations are

$$\dot{\rho}_m + 3H(\rho_m + p_m) = 0, \qquad \dot{\rho}_t + 3H(\rho_t + p_t) = 0.$$
 (18)

So the effective pressure and energy density also satisfies the conservation relation

$$\dot{\rho}_e + 3H(\rho_e + p_e) = 0. \tag{19}$$

Following the method proposed by Cai [18], we shall derive an expression for entropy associated with the apparent horizon of a FRW universe described by the above modified Friedman equations, (*i.e.*, Eqs. (14) and (15)). According to Refs. [16–20], the energy supply vector ψ and the work density W are defined as

$$\psi_a = T_a^b \partial_b R + W \partial_a R, \qquad W = -\frac{1}{2} T^{ab} h_{ab}.$$
⁽²⁰⁾

For the present model the explicit form of these quantities are

$$W = \frac{1}{2}(\rho_t - p_t) = \frac{1}{2}(\rho - p) + \frac{1}{2}(\rho_e - p_e)$$

= $W_m + W_e$, (21)

 $\psi=\psi_m+\psi_e,$

with

$$\psi_m = -\frac{1}{2}(\rho + p)HRdt + \frac{1}{2}(\rho + p)adr,$$
(22)

and

$$\psi_e = -\frac{1}{2}(\rho_e + p_e)HRdt + \frac{1}{2}(\rho_e + p_e)adr.$$
(23)

Note that only the pure matter energy supply $A\psi_m$ (after projecting on the apparent horizon) gives the heat flow δQ in the Clausius relation $\delta Q = TdS$, where $A = 4\pi R^2$ is the surface area of a sphere of radius *R*. Thus according to Hayward [16], the (0, 0) component of (modified) Einstein equations, (*i.e.*, Eq. (14)) can be written as the unified first law

$$dE = A\psi + WdV, \tag{24}$$

where $V = \frac{4}{3}\pi R^3$ is the volume of the sphere of radius *R*.

Now, using the double null vectors ∂_{\pm} as the basis, any vector ξ tangential to the apparent horizon surface can be written as

$$\xi = \xi_+ \partial_+ + \xi_- \partial_-. \tag{25}$$

As by definition the trapping horizon is characterized by

 $\partial_+ R_T = 0,$

so on the marginal sphere,

 $\xi(\partial_+ R_T) = 0,$

i.e.,

 $\xi_+(\partial_+\partial_+R_T)+\xi_-(\partial_-\partial_+R_T)=0,$

i.e.,

$$\frac{\xi_+}{\xi_-} = -\frac{\partial_-\partial_+ R_T}{\partial_+\partial_+ R_T}.$$
(26)

In the present model R_T coincides with R_A and

$$\partial_{-}\partial_{+}R_{A} = \frac{4}{R_{A}}(1-\epsilon), \qquad \partial_{+}\partial_{+}R_{A} = -\frac{4\epsilon}{R_{A}},$$

i.e.,
 $\frac{\xi_{+}}{\xi_{+}} = \frac{1-\epsilon}{\xi_{+}}.$

$$\frac{\xi_+}{\xi_-} = \frac{1-\epsilon}{\epsilon}.$$
(27)

Moreover using (r, t) co-ordinates, ξ can be written as [18]

$$\xi = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} - (1 - 2\epsilon) Hr \frac{\partial}{\partial r}.$$
(28)

Now projecting the unified first law (Eq. (24)) along ξ , the true first law of thermodynamics of the apparent horizon is obtained as [18,20]

$$\langle dE, \xi \rangle = \frac{\kappa}{8\pi G} \langle dA, \xi \rangle + \langle WdV, \xi \rangle \tag{29}$$

Note that the pure matter energy supply $A\psi_m$ when projected on the apparent horizon gives the heat flow δQ in the Clausius relation $\delta Q = TdS$. Hence from Eq. (29) we have

$$\delta Q = \langle A\psi_m, \xi \rangle = \frac{\kappa}{8\pi G} \langle dA, \xi \rangle - \langle A\psi_e, \xi \rangle.$$
(30)

Using Eqs. (16), (17), (22) and (23), we obtain (after a simple algebra)

$$\langle A\psi_m, \xi \rangle = -\frac{2\epsilon(1-\epsilon)}{G} HR_A + \frac{A(1-\epsilon)HR_A}{8\pi G} \left(\ddot{F_1} - H\dot{F_1} + 2F_1 \left(\dot{H} - \frac{k}{a^2} \right) \right)$$
(31)

As the Hawking temperature on the apparent horizon is given by

$$T_A = \frac{|\kappa_A|}{2\pi} = \frac{1 - \epsilon}{2\pi R_A},\tag{32}$$

so the above equation can be written as

$$\langle A\psi_m, \xi \rangle = T_A \left(\frac{8\pi R_A}{4G} dR_A - \frac{\pi H R_A^4}{G} \times \left(\ddot{F_1} - H \dot{F_1} + 2F_1 \left(\dot{H} - \frac{k}{a^2} \right) \right) dt, \xi \right).$$
(33)

Hence comparing with Clausius relation $\delta Q = TdS$ and integrating, we have the entropy on the apparent horizon

$$S_A = \frac{A_A}{4G} - \frac{\pi}{G} \int \left(\ddot{F_1} - H\dot{F_1} + 2F_1 \left(\dot{H} - \frac{k}{a^2} \right) \right) HR_A^4 dt \qquad (34)$$

Thus the entropy on the apparent horizon differs from Bekenstein entropy by a correction term (given in the form of integral on the right-hand side of Eq. (34)).

As light rays move along the radial direction, *i.e.*, normal to the surface of the event horizon and we have $\partial \xi^{\pm} = dt \mp adr$, one form along the normal direction, so $\partial_{\pm} = -\sqrt{2}(\partial_t \mp \frac{1}{a}\partial_r)$ may be chosen along the tangential direction to the surface of the event horizon. Thus for event horizon, we choose

$$\xi = \frac{\partial}{\partial t} - \frac{1}{a} \frac{\partial}{\partial r},\tag{35}$$

as the tangential vector to the surface of the event horizon.

Now, using the expression for κ from Eq. (7) and proceeding as before, the entropy on the event horizon turns out to be

$$S_{E} = \frac{A_{E}}{4G} - \frac{\pi}{2G} \int \left(\frac{R_{A}^{2}R_{E}}{1-\epsilon}\right) \frac{HR_{E}+1}{HR_{E}-1} \left(\ddot{F}_{1} - H\dot{F}_{1} - \frac{4F_{1}\epsilon}{R_{A}^{2}}\right) dR_{E}.$$
(36)

Here also the leading term for entropy is the usual Bekenstein entropy.

Further, if we consider the conformal transformation

$$\tilde{g}_{ab} = e^{\phi} g_{ab} \tag{37}$$

where the scalar field ϕ is defined as

$$\phi \equiv \ln f'(R) = \ln [1 + F_1(R)], \tag{38}$$

then the action (11) (in Einstein frame) now becomes [9,27]

$$\tilde{S} = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int \left[\tilde{R} - \frac{3}{2} \tilde{g}^{ab} \tilde{\nabla}_a \phi \tilde{\nabla}_b \phi - V(\phi) \right] \sqrt{-\tilde{g}} d^4 x + S_m \quad (39)$$

where $\tilde{\nabla}_a$ is the covariant derivative compatible with \tilde{g}_{ab} and $V(\phi)$ is the effective potential defined as

$$V = \frac{RF'(R) - F(R)}{1 + F'(R)^2}.$$
(40)

Now varying the above action (39) with respect to \tilde{g}^{ab} and ϕ we obtain the Einstein equations (of f(R)-gravity in Einstein frame) and the evolution equation for ϕ as

$$\tilde{R}_{ab} - \frac{1}{2}\tilde{g}_{ab}\tilde{R}$$

$$= 3\tilde{\nabla}_{a}\phi\tilde{\nabla}_{b}\phi - \frac{1}{2}\tilde{g}_{ab}\left(\frac{3}{2}\tilde{g}^{ab}\tilde{\nabla}_{a}\phi\tilde{\nabla}_{b}\phi + V(\phi) + T_{ab}\right)$$
(41)

and

$$\tilde{\nabla}_a \tilde{\nabla}^a \phi + \frac{1}{3} \frac{\partial V}{\partial \phi} = 0$$
(42)

So for the present FRW model the explicit form of the field equations are

$$H^{2} + \frac{k}{a^{2}} = \frac{8\pi G}{3} \left(\rho + \frac{1}{8\pi G} \left(\frac{3}{4} \dot{\phi}^{2} + \frac{1}{2} V(\phi) \right) \right), \tag{43}$$

$$\dot{H} - \frac{k}{a^2} = -4\pi G \left(\rho + p + \frac{1}{8\pi G} \left(\frac{3}{2} \dot{\phi}^2 \right) \right), \tag{44}$$

and

$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + \frac{1}{3}\frac{\partial V}{\partial \phi} = 0.$$
(45)

Thus we have

$$\rho_{e} = \frac{1}{8\pi G} \left(\frac{3}{4} \dot{\phi}^{2} + \frac{1}{2} V(\phi) \right)$$

$$\rho_{e} + p_{e} = \frac{1}{8\pi G} \left(\frac{3}{2} \dot{\phi}^{2} \right)$$
(46)

Thus proceeding as above, the entropy on the apparent and event horizon are respectively given by

$$S_A = \frac{A_A}{4G} - \frac{3\pi}{2G} \int (\dot{\phi}^2 H R_A^4) dt \tag{47}$$

and

$$S_E = \frac{A_E}{4G} - \frac{3\pi}{4G} \int \left(\frac{R_A^2 R_E}{(1-\epsilon)}\right) \left(\frac{HR_E + 1}{HR_E - 1}\right) \dot{\phi}^2 dR_E.$$
(48)

Note that the scalar field ϕ in Einstein frame corresponds to a representative form of Ricci curvature in Jordan frame. In our scenario, the Einstein frame is the physical frame which gives self gravity of the scalar field's effective potential $V(\phi)$.

2. Scalar-tensor theory

In scalar-tensor theory of gravity, using Jordan frame the Lagrangian is given by [28]

$$L = \frac{1}{16\pi G} f(\phi) R - \frac{1}{2} g^{\alpha\beta} \partial_{\alpha} \phi \partial_{\beta} \phi - V(\phi) + L_m$$
(49)

where $f(\phi)$ is an arbitrary function of the scalar field ϕ having potential $V(\phi)$, L_m is the Lagrangian for the matter fields in the universe.

Now varying the action corresponding to the Lagrangian (49) with respect to the dynamical variables $g_{\mu\nu}$ and ϕ the equation of motion are

$$G_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{8\pi G}{f(\phi)} \bigg[\partial_{\alpha}\phi \partial_{\beta}\phi - \frac{1}{2}g_{\alpha\beta} \big(g^{\mu\nu}\partial_{\mu}\phi \partial_{\nu}\phi\big) - g_{\alpha\beta}V(\phi) - g_{\alpha\beta}\nabla^{2}f + \nabla_{\alpha}\nabla_{\beta}f + T^{m}_{\mu\nu} \bigg]$$
(50)

and

$$\nabla^2 \phi - V'(\phi) + \frac{1}{2} f'(\phi) R = 0$$
(51)

where $T^m_{\mu\nu}$ is the energy–momentum tensor of the matter distribution. Hence for FRW model, the explicit form of Eqs. (50) and (51) are given by

$$H^{2} + \frac{k}{a^{2}} = \frac{8\pi G}{3f} \left[\rho + \frac{1}{2} \dot{\phi}^{2} + V(\phi) - 3Hf' \dot{\phi} \right]$$
(52)

$$\dot{H} - \frac{k}{a^2} = -\frac{4\pi G}{f} \Big[(\rho + p) + \dot{\phi}^2 + \left(f'' \dot{\phi}^2 + f' \ddot{\phi} - H f' \dot{\phi} \right) \Big]$$
(53)

and

$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + \frac{dV}{d\phi} = \frac{3}{8\pi G} \left(\dot{H} + H^2\right) f' \tag{54}$$

Now choosing $f(\phi) = 1 + F(\phi)$, the field equation (53) can be rewritten as

$$\dot{H} - \frac{k}{a^2} = -4\pi G \left[(\rho + p) + \dot{\phi}^2 + \left(F'' \dot{\phi}^2 + F' \ddot{\phi} - HF' \dot{\phi} \right) + \frac{F}{4\pi G} \left(\dot{H} - \frac{k}{a^2} \right) \right]$$
(55)

Hence we have

$$\rho_e + p_e = \dot{\phi}^2 + \left(F''\dot{\phi}^2 + F'\ddot{\phi} - HF'\phi\right) + \frac{F}{4\pi G}\left(\dot{H} - \frac{k}{a^2}\right) \quad (56)$$

Considering ξ as given by Eq. (28) (for apparent horizon) or by Eq. (35) (for event horizon) and proceeding in the same way as before, for the validity of the unified first law, the expression of the entropy on the horizon (apparent/event) is given by

$$S_{A} = \frac{A_{A}}{4G} - 4\pi^{2} \int \left[\dot{\phi}^{2} + \left(F'' \dot{\phi}^{2} + F' \ddot{\phi} - HF' \phi \right) - \frac{F\epsilon}{2\pi G R_{A}^{2}} \right] \\ \times \frac{R_{A}^{3}}{\epsilon} dR_{A}, \quad \text{for apparent horizon}$$
(57)

and

$$S_{E} = \frac{A_{E}}{4G} - 4\pi^{2} \int \left[\left\{ \dot{\phi}^{2} + \left(F'' \dot{\phi}^{2} + F' \ddot{\phi} - HF' \phi \right) - \frac{F\epsilon}{2\pi G R_{A}^{2}} \right\} \times \frac{(HR_{E}+1)}{(HR_{E}-1)} \frac{R_{E} R_{A}^{2}}{1-\epsilon} \right] dR_{E}, \text{ for event horizon.}$$
(58)

Using similar conformal transformation as in f(R)-gravity we can write down the expressions of the entropy on the horizons in Einstein frame of scalar-tensor theory.

3. Einstein-Gauss-Bonnet gravity

In Einstein–Gauss–Bonnet gravity, the action in (3+1) dimensions can be written as

$$I = \frac{1}{2} \int \left(\sqrt{-g} (R + \alpha G) \right) dx^4 + I_m$$

where α , the coupling parameter has the dimension of $(length)^2$ and I_m is the matter action. Now varying the action I over the metric tensor $g_{\mu\nu}$, we have the equations of motion: $G_{\mu\nu} - \alpha H_{\mu\nu} = T_{\mu\nu}$, where

$$H_{\mu\nu} = 4R_{\mu\lambda}R_{\nu}^{\lambda} + 4R^{\rho\sigma}R_{\mu\rho\nu\sigma} - 2RR_{\mu\nu} - 2R_{\mu}^{\rho\sigma\lambda}R_{\nu\rho\sigma\lambda} + \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu}R_{GB}$$

is the Lovelock tensor. Hence for the metric given in Eq. (2), the nonvanishing components of the modified Einstein's equations are

$$\left(H^2 + \frac{k}{a^2}\right) \left[1 + \tilde{\alpha} \left(H^2 + \frac{k}{a^2}\right)\right] = \frac{8\pi G\rho}{3}$$
(59)

and

$$\left[1+2\tilde{\alpha}\left(H^2+\frac{k}{a^2}\right)\right]\left(\dot{H}-\frac{k}{a^2}\right) = -4\pi G(\rho+p) \tag{60}$$

Here $\tilde{\alpha}$ is the Gauss–Bonnet coupling parameter which is a function of α . Now from Eq. (60), we have

$$\rho_e + p_e = \frac{\tilde{\alpha}}{2\pi G} \left(\dot{H} - \frac{k}{a^2} \right) \left(H^2 + \frac{k}{a^2} \right), \tag{61}$$

so for this modified gravity theory the expressions for the entropy on the horizon (apparent/event) is given by

$$S_A = \frac{A_A}{4G} + \frac{4\pi}{G}\tilde{\alpha}\ln(R_A), \quad \text{for apparent horizon}$$
(62)

and

$$S_E = \frac{A_E}{4G} + \frac{4\pi\tilde{\alpha}}{G} \int \left(\frac{\epsilon}{1-\epsilon}\right) \frac{R_E}{R_A^2} \left(\frac{HR_E + 1}{HR_E - 1}\right) dR_E, \tag{63}$$

for event horizon.

Thus in the present work, we have considered universal thermodynamics for three different gravity theories (namely f(R)gravity, Scalar-tensor theory and Einstein-Gauss-Bonnet gravity) for FRW model of the universe bounded by apparent/event horizon. Assuming the temperature on the horizon as Hawking temperature we have examined the validity of the unified first law and it turns out that the entropy on the horizon is no longer the Bekenstein entropy, rather there are correction terms in integral form. An interesting result is obtained for Einstein-Gauss-Bonnet gravity. In this modified gravity theory the entropy of the apparent horizon achieves a logarithmic correction to Bekenstein entropy. This result is not trivial. One may get the similar result in loop quantum gravity and also in the holographic description (one of the promising descriptions of quantum general relativity) of entropic cosmology. In fact, for a cosmological model involving two holographic screens the universe can arrive at thermal equilibrium only after taking into account of this logarithmic correction [29,30]. Therefore, we conclude that Universal thermodynamics in different gravity theories corresponds to equilibrium configuration - there is no need of choosing any entropy production term, instead the entropy on the horizon is non-Bekenstein in form.

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