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Black hole entropy and the modified uncertainty principle: A heuristic analysis

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ABSTRACT

Recently Ali et al. (2009) proposed a Generalized Uncertainty Principle (or GUP) with a linear term in momentum (accompanied by Planck length). Inspired by this idea here we calculate the quantum corrected value of a Schwarzschild black hole entropy and a Reissner–Nordström black hole with double horizon by utilizing the proposed generalized uncertainty principle. We find that the leading order correction goes with the square root of the horizon area contributing positively. We also find that the prefactor of the logarithmic contribution is negative and the value exactly matches with some earlier existing calculations. With the Reissner–Nordström black hole we see that this model-independent procedure is not only valid for single horizon spacetime but also valid for spacetimes with inner and outer horizons.

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The realization that black holes are thermodynamic objects with well defined entropy and temperature is one of the landmark achievement in theoretical physics [1–3]. Hawking [3] has shown that a Schwarzschild black hole has a thermal radiation with a temperature $T_H = \frac{1}{8\pi M}$, where M is the mass of the black hole. Also the entropy associated with a Schwarzschild black hole is given by the Bekenstein–Hawking entropy–area relation

$$S_{BH} = \frac{A}{4l_p^2}. \quad (1)$$

Here A is the cross sectional area of the black hole horizon. Recently there has been much attention devoted to resolving the quantum corrections to the black hole entropy. As entropy has a definite statistical meaning in the thermodynamic system, it accounts for the number of microstates of the system. A thermodynamic system is composed of atoms and molecules but nothing in particular can be said about the black hole except the presence of strong gravity. It is now common in literature that black hole entropy can be attributed a definite statistical meaning (though this belief warrants a certain degree of caution [4]). The main problem in the study of black hole entropy is to identify the microstates and count them. Two leading candidate theory of quantum gravity (aimed for a successful quantum theory of gravity) namely, string theory and loop quantum gravity, both achieved an enormous amount of success in statistical explanation of the entropy–area law (we can see [5,6] for a brief overview). In this discussion we will mainly focus on the quantum-corrected entropy. Various

theories of quantum gravity (e.g., [7–11]) have predicted the following expansive form:

$$S = \frac{A}{4l_p^2} + c_0 \ln\left(\frac{A}{4l_p^2}\right) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \left(\frac{A}{4l_p^2}\right)^{-n} + \text{const}, \quad (2)$$

where the coefficients c_n can be regarded as model-dependent parameters. Many researchers have expressed a vested interest in fixing c_0 (the coefficient of the subleading logarithmic term) [7]. Recent rigorous calculations of loop quantum gravity predicts the value of c_0 to be $-1/2$ [11].

For the study of black hole entropy we can also use a model-independent concept namely the Generalized Uncertainty Principle or GUP. The idea that the uncertainty principle could be affected by gravity was given by Mead [12]. In the regime when the gravity is strong enough, conventional Heisenberg uncertainty relation is no longer satisfactory (though approximately but perfectly valid in low gravity regimes). Later modified commutation relations between position and momenta commonly known as Generalized Uncertainty Principle were given by candidate theories of quantum gravity (String Theory, Doubly Special Relativity (or DSR) Theory and Black Hole Physics) with the prediction of a minimum measurable length [13–15]. Similar kind of commutation relation can also be found in the context of Polymer Quantization in terms of polymer mass scale [16]. Importance of the GUP can also be realized on the basis of simple *gedanken* experiments without any reference of a particular fundamental theory [14]. So we can think the GUP as a model-independent concept, ideally perfect for the study of black hole entropy. Many authors have applied the GUP for a heuristic analysis of the black hole entropy (we can see [8, 17–19] for a brief idea).

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The authors in [20] proposed a GUP which is consistent with DSR theory, string theory and black hole physics and which says

$$[x_i, x_j] = [p_i, p_j] = 0, \tag{3}$$

$$[x_i, p_j] = i\hbar \left[\delta_{ij} - l \left(p \delta_{ij} + \frac{p_i p_j}{p} \right) + l^2 (p^2 \delta_{ij} + 3 p_i p_j) \right], \tag{4}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \delta x \delta p &\geq \frac{\hbar}{2} [1 - 2l\langle p \rangle + 4l^2 \langle p^2 \rangle] \\ &\geq \frac{\hbar}{2} \left[1 + \left(\frac{l}{\sqrt{\langle p^2 \rangle}} + 4l^2 \right) (\delta p)^2 + 4l^2 \langle p \rangle^2 - 2l\sqrt{\langle p^2 \rangle} \right], \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

where $l = \frac{l_0 l_p}{\hbar}$. Here l_p is the Plank length ($\approx 10^{-35}$ m). It is normally assumed that the dimensionless parameter l_0 is of the order unity. If this is the case then the l -dependent terms are only important at or near the Plank regime. But here we expect the existence of a new intermediate physical length scale of the order of $\hbar h = l_0 l_p$. We also note that this unobserved length scale cannot exceed the electroweak length scale [20] which implies $l_0 \leq 10^{17}$. These equations are approximately covariant under DSR transformations but not Lorentz covariant [15]. These equations also imply

$$\delta x \geq (\delta x)_{min} \approx l_0 l_p \tag{6}$$

and

$$\delta p \leq (\delta p)_{max} \approx \frac{M_p c}{l_0} \tag{7}$$

where M_p is the Plank mass and c is the velocity of light in vacuum. With a lower bound for position fluctuations we can claim that there is a minimum measurable distance and from an upper bound of momentum fluctuations we claim that momentum measurements cannot be arbitrarily imprecise. The effect of this proposed GUP is well studied recently for some well-known physical systems in [20–22].

In this Letter we apply this newly proposed GUP for a perturbative calculation of the quantum-corrected entropy which can be readily extended to any desired order. In the first half we consider a Schwarzschild black hole. In the next half we do the same analysis for a Reissner–Nordström spacetime with double horizons.

Eqs. (4) and (5) represents modified Heisenberg algebra. But the interesting part of these two relation is the term which is linear in $l (= l_0 l_p / \hbar)$ with p . Inspired by this idea, for our purpose we will consider the modified Heisenberg algebra (modified Heisenberg principle) with a small change in notation where x and p obeys the relation ($\alpha > 0$)

$$\delta x \delta p \geq \hbar \left[1 - \frac{\alpha l_p}{\hbar} \delta p + \frac{\alpha^2 l_p^2}{\hbar^2} (\delta p)^2 \right]. \tag{8}$$

In writing Eq. (8) we made an approximation that $(\delta p) \approx \sqrt{\langle p^2 \rangle}$. This means $\langle p \rangle \approx 0$. Now this seems to be a valid approximation as we are going to study the Schwarzschild black hole which is spherically symmetric.¹ We can see that if $\alpha = 2l_0$ this is the same relation as that of (5). Here δx and δp are the position and momentum uncertainty for a quantum particle and α is a dimensionless positive parameter (also known as deformation parameter in the literature of non-commutative geometry). As $l_p = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar G}{c^3}}$, where G is the Newtonian coupling constant, we can imply that the extra terms in the uncertainty relation is a consequence of gravity. We

can re express the modified Heisenberg principle (or MUP) of (8) in the following form

$$\delta p \geq \frac{\hbar(\delta x + \alpha l_p) - \hbar\sqrt{(\delta x + \alpha l_p)^2 - 4\alpha^2 l_p^2}}{2\alpha^2 l_p^2}, \tag{9}$$

where a negative sign choice is made by taking the classical limit. As l_p is normally viewed as an ultraviolet cut-off on spacetime geometry (e.g., [23]), it is quite justified that we can consider the dimensionless ratio $\frac{l_p}{\delta x}$ relatively small as compared to unity. So we can Taylor expand Eq. (9) and rewrite the same equation after some simple manipulation as

$$\delta p \geq \frac{1}{\delta x} \left[1 - \frac{\alpha l_p}{2(\delta x)} + \frac{\alpha^2 l_p^2}{2(\delta x)^2} - \frac{\alpha^3 l_p^3}{2(\delta x)^3} + \frac{9}{16} \frac{\alpha^4 l_p^4}{(\delta x)^4} - \dots \right], \tag{10}$$

where we have considered a choice of unit with $\hbar = 1$. The Heisenberg uncertainty principle ($\delta p \delta x \geq 1$) can be translated to the lower bound $E \delta x \geq 1$ with the arguments used in [24,10], where E is the energy of a quantum particle. The measurement process considered here uses a photon to specify the position of the quantum particle. If we imply our MUP, we can rebuild the lower bound as

$$E \geq \frac{1}{\delta x} \left[1 - \frac{\alpha l_p}{2(\delta x)} + \frac{\alpha^2 l_p^2}{2(\delta x)^2} - \frac{\alpha^3 l_p^3}{2(\delta x)^3} + \frac{9}{16} \frac{\alpha^4 l_p^4}{(\delta x)^4} - \dots \right]. \tag{11}$$

Now we will consider the picture where a quantum particle in the immediate vicinity of an event horizon is absorbed by the black hole. From the knowledge of general relativity we know that for a black hole, absorbing a classical particle with energy E and size R , the minimum increase in area is expressed as

$$\Delta A_{min} \geq 8\pi l_p^2 E R. \tag{12}$$

For a quantum particle R can never be less than the intrinsic uncertainty in the position of the particle [2]. Hence for a quantum particle equation (12) reduces to

$$\Delta A_{min} \geq 8\pi l_p^2 E \delta x. \tag{13}$$

Considering MUP we can re express equation (13) as

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta A_{min} &\simeq \epsilon l_p^2 \left[1 - \frac{\alpha l_p}{2(\delta x)} + \frac{\alpha^2 l_p^2}{2(\delta x)^2} - \frac{\alpha^3 l_p^3}{2(\delta x)^3} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{9}{16} \frac{\alpha^4 l_p^4}{(\delta x)^4} - \dots \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

Here ϵ is a numerical factor greater than the order of 8π .

Let us now consider a Schwarzschild black hole of constant mass immersed in a bath of radiation in its own temperature. So the framework is in principle *microcanonical*. The particles considered in the last section should have a Compton wave length of the order of the inverse of the Hawking temperature [3]. Usually the inverse of surface gravity is the best choice of length scale near horizon. Here also we will choose (we can see [25,17] for a brief argument)

$$\delta x \sim 2r_s. \tag{15}$$

Identifying $\delta x \sim \sqrt{\frac{A}{\pi}}$ and putting this in Eq. (14) we get

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta A_{min} &\simeq \epsilon l_p^2 \left[1 - \frac{\alpha l_p \pi^{1/2}}{2A^{1/2}} + \frac{\alpha^2 l_p^2 \pi}{2A} - \frac{\alpha^3 l_p^3 \pi^{3/2}}{2A^{3/2}} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{9\alpha^4 l_p^4 \pi^2}{16A^2} - \dots \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

¹ Also in many problems of usual quantum mechanics we find $\langle p \rangle = \langle x \rangle = 0$ (for ex. ground state of harmonic oscillator).

Bekenstein first argued [2] that the black hole entropy should depend on the horizon area. Also the minimum increase of entropy is one *bit* b and generally it is considered that $b = \ln 2$. Using this we now write

$$\frac{dS}{dA} \simeq \frac{\Delta S_{min}}{\Delta A_{min}} \simeq \frac{b}{\epsilon l_p^2 \left[1 - \frac{\alpha l_p \pi^{1/2}}{2A^{1/2}} + \frac{\alpha^2 l_p^2 \pi}{2A} - \frac{\alpha^3 l_p^3 \pi^{3/2}}{2A^{3/2}} + \frac{9\alpha^4 l_p^4 \pi^2}{16A^2} - \dots \right]}. \quad (17)$$

Following the same procedure as before (for performing Taylor expansion) we write the same equation as

$$\frac{dS}{dA} \simeq \frac{b}{\epsilon l_p^2} \left[1 + \frac{\alpha l_p \pi^{1/2}}{2A^{1/2}} - \frac{\alpha^2 l_p^2 \pi}{4A} + \frac{\alpha^3 l_p^3 \pi^{3/2}}{8A^{3/2}} - \frac{\alpha^4 l_p^4 \pi^2}{8A^2} + \dots \right]. \quad (18)$$

Integrating we get (up to an additive constant factor of integration)

$$S \simeq \frac{A}{4l_p^2} + \frac{\pi^{1/2} \alpha}{2} \sqrt{\frac{A}{4l_p^2}} - \frac{\pi \alpha^2}{16} \ln \frac{A}{4l_p^2} - \frac{\pi^{3/2} \alpha^3}{32} \left(\frac{A}{4l_p^2} \right)^{-1/2} + \frac{\pi^2 \alpha^4}{128} \left(\frac{A}{4l_p^2} \right)^{-1} - \dots + \text{const.} \quad (19)$$

Here we have compared the first term with Bekenstein–Hawking entropy–area relation which says b/ϵ should be $1/4$. Eq. (19) can be written in the form of an expansion

$$S \simeq \frac{A}{4l_p^2} + \frac{\pi^{1/2} \alpha}{2} \sqrt{\frac{A}{4l_p^2}} - \frac{\pi \alpha^2}{16} \ln \frac{A}{4l_p^2} - \sum_{m=\frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}, \dots}^{\infty} d_m \left(\frac{A}{4l_p^2} \right)^{-m} + \sum_{n=1, 2, \dots}^{\infty} c_n \left(\frac{A}{4l_p^2} \right)^{-n} + \text{const.} \quad (20)$$

Here m denotes positive half-integers and n positive integers. If we compare this equation with (2) we can see that there are extra terms in this equation. One of the leading contribution to the entropy is from the new second term $\sim \sqrt{\text{Area}}$. In the context of Eqs. (4) and (5) this was first pointed out in [22]. Also we have terms proportional to $(\text{Area})^{-m}$. This is a consequence of the form of the modified uncertainty relation which we have used.² A linear term in Planck length accompanied by p in the commutation relation of x and p gives this new contribution to the quantum corrected entropy–area relation.

Let us now consider the case of a Reissner–Nordström black hole with double horizon. The line element of this spacetime is given by

$$ds^2 = - \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r} + \frac{Q^2}{r^2} \right) dt^2 + \left(1 - \frac{2M}{r} + \frac{Q^2}{r^2} \right)^{-1} dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega_2^2, \quad (21)$$

² The hypothesis of modified energy–momentum dispersion relation (commonly known as MDR) is popular among those adopting a *spacetime foam* intuition in the study of the quantum gravity problem. In most cases one is led to consider a dispersion relation of the type

$$p^2 \simeq E^2 - \mu^2 + \alpha_1 l_p E^3 + \alpha_2 l_p^2 E^4 + \dots,$$

where μ is termed as mass parameter and it is directly related to the rest energy of the particle. This type of modified dispersion relations are used to evaluate black hole entropy. If the cubic term $\alpha_1 l_p E^3$ is present in the energy–momentum dispersion relation then the leading correction goes like $\sqrt{\text{Area}}$. For a brief discussion we can see [19].

where $r_{\pm} = M \pm \sqrt{M^2 - Q^2}$ are the locations of outer and inner horizons. Q is the electric charge of the black hole and we will consider it as constant. For simplicity we have considered the choice of unit where $G = c = 1$. Using similar arguments as in the case of a Schwarzschild black hole we will consider

$$\delta x \sim 2(r_+ - r_-). \quad (22)$$

With a simple manipulation we can write this as

$$\delta x \sim \sqrt{\frac{A}{\pi}} \left(1 - \frac{4\pi Q^2}{A} \right). \quad (23)$$

Here the minimum increase in the horizon area can be expressed as

$$\Delta A_{min} \simeq \epsilon l_p^2 \left[1 - \frac{\alpha l_p \pi^{1/2}}{2A^{1/2}} \left(1 - \frac{4\pi Q^2}{A} \right)^{-1} + \frac{\alpha^2 l_p^2 \pi}{2A} \left(1 - \frac{4\pi Q^2}{A} \right)^{-2} - \frac{\alpha^3 l_p^3 \pi^{3/2}}{2A^{3/2}} \left(1 - \frac{4\pi Q^2}{A} \right)^{-3} + \frac{9\alpha^4 l_p^4 \pi^2}{16A^2} \left(1 - \frac{4\pi Q^2}{A} \right)^{-4} - \dots \right]. \quad (24)$$

We now write the differential entropy–area relation for this black hole as

$$\frac{dS}{dA} \simeq \frac{b}{\epsilon l_p^2} \left[1 + \frac{\alpha l_p \pi^{1/2}}{2A^{1/2}} \left(1 + \frac{4\pi Q^2}{A} + \frac{16\pi^2 Q^4}{A^2} \right) - \frac{\alpha^2 l_p^2 \pi}{4A} \left(1 + \frac{8\pi Q^2}{A} + \frac{48\pi^2 Q^4}{A^2} \right) + \frac{\alpha^3 l_p^3 \pi^{3/2}}{8A^{3/2}} \left(1 + \frac{12\pi Q^2}{A} + \frac{96\pi^2 Q^4}{A^2} \right) - \frac{\alpha^4 l_p^4 \pi^2}{8A^2} \left(1 + \frac{16\pi Q^2}{A} + \frac{160\pi^2 Q^4}{A^2} \right) + \dots \right]. \quad (25)$$

Here we have considered terms up to the $\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{Q^4}{A^2}\right)$ while performing the Taylor expansion. Higher order terms are neglected with the assumption $A \gg Q$. With the calibrated value of $b/\epsilon = 1/4$, the final expression of the quantum corrected entropy–area relation (up to an additive constant factor of integration) for the Reissner–Nordström black hole with double horizon is written as

$$S \simeq \frac{A}{4l_p^2} + \frac{\alpha \pi^{1/2}}{4l_p} \left(A^{1/2} - \frac{4\pi Q^2}{A^{1/2}} - \frac{16\pi^2 Q^4}{3A^{3/2}} \right) - \frac{\alpha^2 \pi}{16} \left(\ln A - \frac{8\pi Q^2}{A} - \frac{24\pi^2 Q^4}{A^2} \right) - \frac{\alpha^3 l_p^3 \pi^{3/2}}{16} \left(\frac{1}{A^{1/2}} + \frac{4\pi Q^2}{A^{3/2}} + \frac{96\pi^2 Q^4}{5A^{5/2}} \right) + \frac{\alpha^4 l_p^4 \pi^2}{32} \left(\frac{1}{A} + \frac{8\pi Q^2}{A^2} + \frac{160\pi^2 Q^4}{3A^3} \right) - \dots + \text{const.} \quad (26)$$

Clearly we can see that if $Q = 0$, we get back Eq. (19).

So in this Letter, we have exploited the generalized uncertainty principle as proposed by Ali et al. [20] to evaluate the quantum corrected black hole entropy for a Schwarzschild black hole and a Reissner–Nordström black hole with double horizon. We found that the leading order correction to the Bekenstein–Hawking entropy–area relation goes as $\sqrt{\text{Area}}$ contributing positively. This term can

also be obtained if we use the modified energy–momentum dispersion relation containing a term proportional to $l_p \times (\text{Energy})^3$ for the calculation of black hole entropy. Some models of quantum gravity disregard this term. The next leading order contribution to the entropy goes as the logarithm of the area but it contributes negatively. Apart from these two corrections we also found two series expansion which goes with the negative power of Area. One series is consistent with the calculation performed with the earlier version of GUP (e.g., [8]). The other one goes with negative half-integer powers of Area contributing negatively to the entropy. Here we have found that the logarithmic prefactor takes on the value $-\frac{\pi\alpha^2}{16}$. If we look back at Eq. (5) this value is $-\frac{\pi l_0^2}{4}$ (according to the newly proposed GUP [20]). Though we are unable to make a precise statement about l_0 but still this is exactly the same value as deduced by the authors in [26,8]. We have considered that the black hole is immersed in a bath of radiation at its own temperature, hence we have computed the *microcanonical* entropy. Later we have utilized the same procedure for a Reissner–Nordström black hole with double horizon. We also found that this procedure as mentioned in [27] is not only valid for single horizon spacetime but also valid for spacetimes with outer and inner horizons.

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