

Canadian Association of Physicists

Association canadienne des physiciens et physiciennes

Contribution ID: 3346

Type: Oral (Non-Student) / Orale (non-étudiant(e))

A Little Excitement Across the Horizon

Monday 6 June 2022 11:45 (15 minutes)

I report on the results of the first analysis of a time-and-space localised quantum system crossing the horizon of a (3+1)-dimensional black hole. We

analyse numerically the transitions in an Unruh-DeWitt detector, coupled linearly to a massless scalar field, in radial infall toward a (3+1)-dimensional Schwarzschild black hole. In the Hartle-Hawking and Unruh states, the transition probability attains a small local extremum near the horizon-crossing and is then moderately enhanced on approaching the singularity. In the Boulware state, the transi- tion probability drops on approaching the horizon.

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Session Classification: M1-10 Fields, Particles, and Strings I (DTP) | Champs, particules et cordes I (DPT)

Track Classification: Technical Sessions / Sessions techniques: Theoretical Physics / Physique théorique (DTP-DPT)