Abstract We consider the Wheeler–DeWitt equation near the horizon of the black hole where the entangled vacuum state is chosen as the static universe state. Then, using the entangled property of the vacuum state, we investigate the dynamical evolution of the subsystems, namely inside and outside of the horizon.

1 Introduction

It is well known that the canonical quantization of general relativity yields the Wheeler–DeWitt equation [1,2]. This equation leads to static state of the universe as well as the problem of time [3–9]. To overcome this problem a solution was suggested by Page and Wootters (PaW) [10,11]. By considering quantum entanglement, a static system can be described as an evolving universe by the view of internal observers. An hypothetical external observer may describe clock system and the rest of the universe as a whole system in a stationary state. This system will be evolving from the view of internal observers that test correlation between the clock and the rest [10–15]. Thus, entanglement between subsystems provide the possibility to describe time as an emergent property of the subsystems of the universe. For an experimental illustration refer to [16]. In this paper, we apply PaW mechanism to the near horizon of the black hole to study the time evolution of the black hole’s interior. We investigate this mechanism within two different paradigms, $ER = EPR$ [17] and firewalls [18].

The complementarity view of black holes has been threatened by firewall concept. $ER = EPR$ conjecture in preserving complementarity [17] does not comply with AMPS which proposes firewall at the horizon of black hole to avoid APMS’s paradox [18]. AMPS has argued that considering the complementarity there is a contradiction in accepting all three following assumptions at once: (1) an evaporating black hole preserves quantum information without destroying it (unitarity), (2) the event horizon of black hole is not unusual for an in-falling observer crossing it, (3) an observer staying outside the black hole works with relativistic effective quantum field theory. AMPS considers the late radiation $B$ of an old black hole (emitted half of its radiation away [19,20]) as maximally entangled with its early radiation $R_B$. Assumptions 1 and 3 require the $B$ to be entangled with a subsystem of $R$, and on the other hand, the assumption 2 leads to entanglement between $B$ and a subsystem of interior of the black hole. This violates the monogamy of quantum entanglement [21,22]. It asserts that if two quantum systems are maximally entangled, non of them can be entangled with a third system. To overcome this puzzle, AMPS argue that there is only one singularity at firewall and no interior of black hole exists [18,23].

One of the solutions to overcome AMPS’s paradox without violation of equivalence principle near the horizon is the $ER = EPR$ conjecture. The $ER$ bridge from one hand and $EPR$ pair on the other hand have a relation by $ER = EPR$ [17]. This means that $ER$ bridge is created by $EPR$ correlation in the microstates of two entangled black holes. This result is based on the works [24,25]. To explain more, the $EPR$ correlated quantum system is nothing but a weakly coupled Einstein gravity description. In other words, the $ER$ bridge is a highly quantum object. There are some speculations that for every singlet state there exists a quantum bridge of this type. For more discussion of AMPS’s paradox and another solution for it, refer to [26].

In this paper, we study the black hole’s near horizon features and PaW mechanism briefly in Sect. 2. In the third section, the dynamical evolution of the black hole’s interior is studied within $ER = EPR$ paradigm using Wheeler–DeWitt equation near the horizon of the black hole. This is repeated in the Sect. 4, concerning firewall at the horizon of black hole. At the end we have a conclusion section.
2 Black hole’s near horizon features and PaW mechanism

In the black hole formation and evaporation process, the unitarity of S-matrix is an important fact. We assume that $B$ is an outgoing Hawking mode in the near horizon zone of a black hole. The unitarity of S-matrix imposes that the mode $B$ at near horizon be pure for a newly constructed black hole, otherwise, it has to be purified as a whole Hawking radiation, emitted partly at near horizon, entangled with the other part at far distance, for an old black hole. In the later case, the exact purification of the $B$ mode is associated to degrees of freedom of the black hole.

Before considering the evaporation and radiation of an old black hole, the entropy of which is smaller than the entropy of the radiation that it has already emitted, there is a so called AMPS paradox. Here the entropy means von Neumann entropy. This entropy can be written for two quantum systems as follows

$$S_{AB} = -tr(\rho_{AB} \ln \rho_{AB})$$

(1)

where $\rho_{AB}$ is density matrix for quantum mechanical systems $A$ and $B$. The amount of von Neumann entropy $S_A (S_B)$ is considered by

$$S_A = -tr(\rho_A \ln \rho_A)$$

(2)

$$S_B = -tr(\rho_B \ln \rho_B)$$

(3)

which is derived by tracing over states $B (A)$ in density matrix $\rho_{AB}$. When $A$ and $B$ are maximally entangled (not pure) then $S_A = S_B = 1$ and $S_{AB} = 0$. On the other hand when $S_A = S_B = 0$, then there is no any entanglement between $A$ and $B$ (pure).

To consider the AMPS paradox let’s do as follows. For an exterior rest observer, the outgoing near horizon Hawking mode $B$ has the entropy $S_B \simeq 1$ which indicates that it is not pure. However, this mode can be purified by the early emitted Hawking radiation. If we denote $R_B$ for the early radiation, then the von Neumann entropy $S_{BR_B}$ is exponentially small, namely $S_{BR_B} \ll 1$. If we indicate the interior mode of black hole by $A$, then for an in-falling observer, realizing the vacuum, the mode $B$ has to be purified by $A$. In other words, $S_{BA} \ll 1$. On the other hand the sub-additivity theorem implies [23]

$$S_B \leq S_{BA} + S_{BR_B}$$

(4)

which is violated by the simultaneous imposition of the results $S_{BR_B} \ll 1$ and $S_{BA} \ll 1$. Thus, in order to revalidate this theorem, the statement of entanglement monogamy is introduced, which allows each state to be entangled with one and only one other state [22].

To overcome above paradox, AMPS suggested the existence of firewall at the horizon which is created by breaking of entanglement between $B$ and $A$. The monogamy of entanglement does not allow entanglement among three parties. In AMPS’s suggestion one of the entanglements breaks down which leads to the creation of firewall at horizon. This violates the equivalence principle of general relativity near the horizon.

Regarding these properties of the black hole which leads to “frozen vacuum” [28], in the next section we will consider the Wheeler–DeWitt equation in the near horizon of black hole to ascribe a typical time evolution for the quantum states, inside the black hole.

Before describing our argument, we review PaW approach which is necessary for our discussion, as follows.

- The universe is timeless

$$H |\psi >= 0,$$

(5)

where $|\psi > \in \mathcal{H}$ is an eigenstate of its Hamiltonian $H$.

- Hamiltonian includes at least one good clock. It means that a clock system $H_c$ with a large distinguishable states, interacts weakly (or does not have interaction at all) with the rest of universe $H_r$. So, it leads to Hamiltonian system with tensor product structure in its eigenstate space $\mathcal{H} \in \mathcal{H}_c \otimes \mathcal{H}_r$ such that non-interacting property holds:

$$H = H_c \otimes I_r + I_c \otimes H_r,$$

(6)

where $I$ are the unit operator on each subsystem.

- Clock and the rest of the universe are entangled. This feature allows the apparent dynamical evolution of the rest of universe in terms of clock, without any evolution at the level of the universe, at all. To explain it in more details, one assumes that the state of the universe is $|\psi >$, then $|\psi (t) >_c$ and $|\psi (t) >_r$ are the states of clock system and rest of the universe, respectively. By projecting $|\psi >$ on the states of clocks $|\psi (t) >_c$, and considering $|\psi (t) >_c = e^{-iH_c/\hbar} |\psi (0) >_c$, one gets the vectors

$$|\psi (t) >_r :=_c < \psi (t)|\psi >_c = e^{-iH_c/\hbar} |\psi (0) >_r.$$

(7)

This indicate the proper evolution of subsystem $r$ under the action of its local Hamiltonian $H_r$. Although the system globally appears to be static, its subsystems indicate
correlations which represent an apparent dynamical evolution. In fact, this is called evolution without evolution.

3 Time evolution of the interior of a black hole and \( ER = EPR \)

In this section, we investigate the time evolution of an old black hole’s interior according to Wheeler–DeWitt equation by considering \( ER = EPR \) conjecture. The left hand side of the \( ER = EPR \) is Einstein Rosen bridge and the right hand side of it is the \( EPR \) paradox. There are similarities between entanglement pair \( EPR \) and Einstein Rosen bridge. To show that, suppose a large number of particles which are separated in a two entangled Bell pairs. Each part is collapsed to make a single black hole. Now there are two entangled black holes which can be connected by \( ER \) bridge. In other words two entangled black holes (\( EPR \) pairs) can do the role of \( ER \) bridge. It is important to mention that this relation is over a particular manifold and maybe it cannot be applied in every spacetime. However, some physicist take a radical position that these two parts are linked even for a single entangled pair [17]. For our goal in this section and whole of this paper, since these two parts are linked even for a single entangled pair there is no superluminal signals in both entanglement pair of \( EPR \) states and Hawking radiation. To understand the essence of this vacuum and its relation to \( ER = EPR \) conjecture, suppose two observers an in-falling observer Alice and a static observer Bob for an old black hole. We indicate the Hilbert state of \( A, B \) and \( R_B \) states, by \( |n >_b, |n >_b \) and \( |n >_{RB} \), respectively.

Now we want to consider the vacuum when it is exited and to observe its influence in \( ER = EPR \) paradigm. In doing so, suppose an old black hole and indicate a thermally entangled state without normalization factors of \( bRB \) as follows

\[
|ψ >_{pRB} = i >_p \otimes \sum_{n=0}^{∞} |n >_b |n >_{RB}
\]

(8)

Here \( |i >_p \) is the state of a pointer which has not interacted with any of the subsystems yet. By using \( ER = EPR \) conjecture which here is \( A = R_B \) one can apply the following map

\[
|0 >_{R_B} \rightarrow |0 >_b ,... |j >_{R_B} \rightarrow |j >_b ,...
\]

(9)

If we assume the black hole is billions of light years, then the curvature is negligible in the near horizon region. In this vicinity one may expect the violation of semiclassical approach or equivalence principle.

To complete premeasurement we suppose the pointer \( p \) measures the states \( R_B \). So the equation (8) becomes

\[
|ψ >_{pRB} = \sum_{n=0}^{∞} |n >_b |n >_{RB} |n >_p
\]

(10)

A realistic system cannot be separated from environment. Then, here a pointer can do the role of the environment for radiation states \( R_B \). If one trace over the stats \( B \) the rest \( pRB \) is a mixed state and is not pure. Therefore, any map from \( R_B \) to states \( A \) cannot give the vaccum state of the near-horizon zone \( |0 >_b \). So, if we include the environment \( p \) for Hawking radiation states \( R_B \) the donkey map becomes

\[
|0 >_{R_B} |0 >_{p} \rightarrow |0 >_b ,... |j >_{R_B} |j >_{p} \rightarrow |j >_b ,...
\]

(11)
The in-falling vacuum is proportional to
\[
|0 >_{bh} \propto \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n |n >_b |n >_{bh},
\]  
(12)
where we suppressed the normalization factor.

Now suppose the pointer \( p \) measures \( b \) instead of \( R_B \). This gives the same results as Eq. (10). In addition, assume Bob an static observer who is one light year from near-horizon zone is aware of this measurement then he disappears. Nine years later a clueless Alice who is a free falling observer is going to experience the near horizon vacuum. In her journey she will not recognize any thing especial near the horizon vacuum because from her knowledge of black hole she know that near horizon vacuum \( B \) can be purified by states \( A \) which is identified by \( R_B \). Alice was aware of \( R_B \) before starting her journey into vacuum and then she was aware of, too. Therefore she enjoy her journey and will not see anything except the in-falling vacuum.

However, if Alice become aware of Bob’s knowledge she will confront with a contradiction. In other words if Bob meet the Alice and share the \( p \) measurement of vacuum \( B \), then Alice in purifying of \( A(= R_B) \) with \( B \) confronts with a contradiction. Because, in this situation \( B \) is not purified by \( A \) from Alice’s view. To avoid this contradiction Alice must always experience the in-falling vacuum (12) and she cannot see any exited vacuum by the pointers, environment or even by herself. Then, near-horizon vacuum is an special vacuum which is called “Frozen Vacuum”.

As we mentioned before we want to construct wheeler–DeWitt equation in near-horizon zone. We recognized that near-horizon zone is frozen vacuum. To construct the wheeler–DeWitt equation in this vicinity we use the page and wootter approach [10] We reviewed this approach in Sect. 2. Now its time to apply wheeler–DeWitt to near-horizon zone. In doing so, we start from vacuum state of near horizon or frozen vacuum.

According to Bousso, the in-falling vacuum state without normalization factors is as follows [28]
\[
|0 >_{bh} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n |n >_b |n >_{bh},
\]  
(13)
where \( |n >_b \) and \( |n >_{bh} \) are the quantum states of outside and inside the black hole horizon, from in-falling observer’s point of view, and the coefficient \( x = e^{-\beta\omega/2} \) for modes with Killing frequency of the order of Hawking temperature is of order one. This is particular vacuum state which is called “frozen vacuum”. The observer in this vacuum state, near the horizon, is unable to observe any particle, whereas a rest inertial observer far from gravity is able to observe particles from her/his vacuum state. In other words, it leads to violation of equivalence principle. This vacuum state is the only state that exists near the horizon when one is in the \( ER = EPR \) paradigm. It turns out that while \( ER = EPR \) conjecture tries to save monogamy principle in black hole physics, at the same time leads to violation of equivalence principle (through the frozen vacuum rather than the firewall). These explanations have far-reaching implication for our next arguments.

Now, we consider the frozen vacuum state as the universe state. Since there is only one vacuum state – frozen vacuum state – near the horizon in the \( ER = EPR \) case, it is the mere state that can be described as the universe state. The local Hamiltonians for subsystems \( c \) and \( r \), defined by relation (6), are given by \( H_b \) and \( H_B \), respectively as
\[
H_b = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^{-n} |n >_{bh} < n|,
\]  
(14)
\[
H_B = -\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^{-n} |n >_{bh} < n|,
\]  
(15)
where \( H_b \) and \( H_B \) indicate the local Hamiltonians for outside (clock system) and inside (rest of universe) the black hole horizon, from in-falling observer’s point of view, respectively. Now by using Eqs. (5), (6), (14) and (15) one can obtain the following equation
\[
\left( \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^{-n} |n >_{bh} < n| \otimes I_B - I_b \otimes \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^{-n} |n >_{bh} < n| \right) |0 >_{bh} = 0
\]  
(16)
where we apply the vacuum state \( |0 >_{bh} \) as universe state. This is wheeler–DeWitt equation for this model of system. Note that, as a whole, the constraint \( H|\psi > = 0 \) is compatible with current approaches to quantum gravity. In other word, it can be interpreted as wheeler–DeWitt equation in a closed universe [1]. However, it can also be regarded as the first set of sufficient conditions for a timeless approach to time in quantum gravity.

Now, the in-falling observer has equipped with Hamiltonian \( H_b \) and also knows the universe state by his knowledge of black hole’s theory. This knowledge includes \( ER = EPR \) conjecture which identifies the interior \( A \) of the black hole with the outside distant Hawking radiation \( R_B \). (\( A = R_B \) which is called donkey map). This map also includes the interaction of \( R_B \) with anything outside, even the observer itself. Whatever happens to the Hawking radiation \( R_B \), the frozen vacuum for the in-falling observer does not change and so this observer is still unable to observe any particle. For example, the observer can read the Hawking radiation \( R_B \) and then use donkey map as follows
\[
|n >_{R_B} \rightarrow |n >_{bh},
\]  
(17)
for \( n = 0, 1, 2, 3, \ldots \) as quantum states. Therefore, the observer by the knowledge of \( |n > R_B \) can recognize \( |n > \tilde{b} \), and so construct the frozen vacuum state \( |0 > {}_{bb} \) without falling into the interior of the black hole. For more discussion refer to [28].

To know the proper time evolution of the interior of the black hole by the PaW approach, without falling into it, the exterior observer can use her/his own subsystem state

\[
|\psi(t) >_b = e^{-iH_b t/\hbar}|\psi(0) >_b,
\]

(18)

where \( |\psi(0) >_b \) is the initial state of the subsystem \( b \), and then uses Eq. (7) to derive the proper time evolution of the interior of the black hole, without falling into it, as follows

\[
|\psi(t) >_{\tilde{b}} := \psi(t)|0 >_{bb} = e^{-iH_{\tilde{b}} t/\hbar}|\psi(0) >_{\tilde{b}},
\]

(19)

where \( |\psi(0) >_{\tilde{b}} = \psi(0)|0 >_{bb} \) is the initial state of the subsystem \( \tilde{b} \).

We conclude that the observer who has access to the Hawking radiation \( R_B \), has access to the internal of the black hole, too, without falling into it. Therefore, he can also access to the Hamiltonian (15) near the horizon outside of it. With these interpretations, he has ability to make a measurement globally through \( H \) because of his simultaneous accessibility to the Hamiltonian \( H_B \) and \( H_{\tilde{b}} \). The observer by considering the whole system will recognize it as a static system, but by considering its disjoint subsystems as clock-rest system, will recognize it as a dynamical system.

4 Time evolution of the interior of a black hole and firewalls

In this section, we investigate the time evolution of the interior of the black hole in the presence of firewall that AMPS has suggested for solving the AMPS’s paradox. Therefore, we study a little more about the firewall.

4.1 Firewall

AMPS has argued that for a black hole which has radiated more than half of its initial entropy in the Page time, the firewall is created at the horizon where the in-falling observer burns up there [18]. This is in contradiction with both the equivalence principle and the postulate of black hole complementarity [27]. AMPS claims that the firewall is constructed in scrambling time which is much less than Page time. However, in a more gradual picture of forming firewall in [27], this is not a correct picture. For more explanation, consider an old black hole with early Hawking radiation \( R \), the outside of the horizon \( B \) and the interior of the black hole \( A \). For an old black hole, \( B \) has entanglement with Hawking radiation \( R_B \). On the other hand, for in-falling observer the interior \( A \) and the outside \( B \) are entangled. Now, suppose that Alice as in-falling observer, measures the state of the \( R_B \) and then falls into the black hole. She has recognized the state of \( R_B \) and in her journey into the black hole, can measure the state of \( B \). As long as \( B \) has entanglement with \( R_B \), regarding the monogamy of entanglement, she must not recognize the entanglement between \( B \) and \( A \). To overcome this paradox, AMPS has argued that the entanglement between \( A \) and \( B \) breaks down for Alice. This leads to firewall at horizon in scrambling time. According to [27], this is not a correct picture, because the high degree of entanglement between \( B \) and \( R_B \) does not occur suddenly. The firewall is not a part of horizon but it is only as an extension of singularity. The separation of the singularity from horizon is a gradual function of time and at the Page time this separation goes to zero. In this time there is no horizon at all and the singularity of black hole is located at the location of the horizon. So, an in-falling observer terminates at horizon (singularity of black hole). The story is different for the young black hole. In the case of young and large black holes the in-falling observer survives passing through the horizon.

4.2 Time evolution of the inside of the black hole

Now, we investigate the time evolution of the black hole’s inside from the viewpoint of an in-falling observer outside the black hole, near the horizon in the presence of firewall. According to all of above considerations about PaW approach in Sect. 2, we choose the state of near horizon vacuum state as the universe state

\[
|\psi >_{bb} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|1 >_b |1 >_{\tilde{b}} + |0 >_b |0 >_{\tilde{b}}),
\]

(20)

which is identified by imposing the Wheeler–DeWitt equation as \( H|\psi >_{bb} = 0 \).

Now, we need local Hamiltonians for subsystems \( c \) and \( r \) which are \( H_b \) and \( H_{\tilde{b}} \) respectively, as clock subsystem and the rest of the universe obeying relation (6) and are given by

\[
H_b = |1 >_b < 0|_b - |0 >_b < 1|_b,
\]

(21)

\[
H_{\tilde{b}} = |1 >_{\tilde{b}} < 0|_{\tilde{b}} - |0 >_{\tilde{b}} < 1|_{\tilde{b}},
\]

(22)

where \( H_b \) indicates the local Hamiltonian for outside of observer near horizon and \( H_{\tilde{b}} \) for the interior region of horizon.

The observer is equipped with local Hamiltonian (21) near the horizon of black hole. For a young and large black hole the in-falling observer without any concern of existence of the firewall can measure the proper time evolution of the black hole’s interior. In doing so, what she needs is to do the following measurement
\begin{equation}
|\psi(t) >_{\tilde{b}} := < \psi(t)|\psi >_{b0} = e^{-i\hat{H}_B t/\hbar}|\psi(0) >_{\tilde{b}},
\end{equation}

where $|\psi(0) >_{\tilde{b}} := < \psi(0)|0 >_{b0}$ and $|\psi(t) >_{b} = e^{-i\hat{H}_B t/\hbar}|\psi(0) >_{\tilde{b}}$ and we know that $|\psi(0) >_{\tilde{b}}$ is the initial state of the subsystem $b$. Therefore, the correlation between $b < \psi(t)|$ and universe state $|\psi >_{b0}$ which comes from entanglement between them provide the possibility for observer to measure proper time evolution of the black hole’s interior.

In the case of an old black hole, the observer again is equipped with local Hamiltonian (21) near the horizon of the black hole. If the in-falling observer does not make any measurement on early Hawking radiation $R_B$ there will be no detectable difference between young and old black hole for her and she will not encounter any firewall at the horizon. Therefore, she is able to measure the evolution of the subsystem $\tilde{b}$ by the Eq. (23) using the correlation between subsystems that mimic the presence of dynamical evolution. On the other hand, suppose that the in-falling observer at first makes a measurement on early Hawking radiation and then near the horizon she makes a measurement on $B$. If she recognizes $R_B$ and $B$ as maximally entangled, then she will confront with firewall at the horizon which comes from the breaking down of entanglement between $A$ and $B$. Therefore, in the lack of entanglement between $A$ and $B$ she will not be able to measure the dynamical evolution of the subsystem $\tilde{b}$ by Eq. (23). In other words, we can conclude that she does not recognize any evolution inside the black hole. This conclusion is very close to the approaches claiming the lack of entanglement between two sides of horizon leads to non existence of the entire space-time behind the firewall [29–31].

5 Conclusion

Although there is a frozen vacuum near the horizon region, one can construct the Wheeler–DeWitt equation there and study the dynamical evolution of the system. If one accepts the $ER = EPR$ conjecture, then the time evolution of the interior of the horizon can be accessed by an infalling observer before crossing the horizon. The outside observer of the black hole can do measurement on early Hawking radiation and then by the help of $ER = EPR$ conjecture and the map $A = R_B$ (donkey map) can access to the interior states. Next, the observer can construct Wheeler–DeWitt operator (Hamiltonian) near the horizon to operate on the frozen vacuum as the universe state with zero energy, and determine the local Hamiltonians for outside and inside the black hole horizon. Finally, the observer is able to obtain the time evolution of the interior states of the black hole by using the outside subsystem and the frozen vacuum state.

If the observer be in the firewall paradigm, she/he will confront with two cases: For young black hole, the observer is equipped with his local Hamiltonian near the horizon of black hole. For a young and large black hole, the in-falling observer without any concern about the existence of firewall can describe the proper time evolution of the black hole’s interior.

In the case of old black hole, if the observer does not make any observation on the early Hawking radiation, she/he cannot distinguish between old and young black holes, and so repeats the same calculation of young black hole for the old one. But if the observer makes observation on the early Hawking radiation, then she/he will confront with a firewall and there is no any time evolution on the other side of the horizon.

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