Logarithmic correction to the Bekenstein-Hawking entropy of BTZ black hole

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Abstract

We derive an exact expression for the partition function of the Euclidean BTZ black hole. Using this, we show that for a black hole with large horizon area, the correction to the Bekenstein-Hawking entropy is $-3/2 \log(area)$, in agreement with that for the Schwarzschild black hole obtained in the four dimensional canonical gravity formalism and also in a Lorentzian computation of BTZ black hole entropy. We find that the right expression for the logarithmic correction in the context of the BTZ black hole comes from the modular invariance associated with the toral boundary of the black hole.

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Within the quantum geometry formulation of gravity, it has been argued that the quantum degrees of freedom of a (3+1)-dimensional black hole can be described in terms of a Chern-Simons theory on the horizon [1], [2]. For a (3+1)-dimensional Schwarzschild black hole, this allows an exact calculation of the entropy [2] which for a large horizon area yields, besides the usual Bekenstein-Hawking entropy proportional to the area, a next order log(area) correction with a definite numerical coefficient, -3/2 [3]. SU(2) Wess-Zumino conformal field theory on the boundary plays an important role in this calculation. There are other methods which can been employed to evaluate black hole entropy. Exploiting the nature of corrections to the Cardy formula for density of states in a two-dimensional conformal field theory, Carlip has evaluated this logarithmic correction in several black hole models including those from certain string theories [5]. Contrary to the expectations that these corrections may lead to distinguishing various formulations of quantum gravity, as emphasized by Carlip, the coefficient of logarithmic correction to the Bekenstein-Hawking entropy for large horizon area may have a universal character. The same value of the coefficient appears for a variety of black holes independent of the dimensions. In particular, the same correction was obtained for the entropy of the (2+1)-dimensional Lorentzian BTZ black hole [4] in [5] by studying the growth of states in the asymptotic conformal field theory at the boundary of the black hole spacetime. The semi-classical entropy of the BTZ black hole has been earlier obtained in different Lorentzian [6], [7] and Euclidean [8], [9] formulations of gravity. However, the correction term to semiclassical entropy seen in [5] has not been reproduced in the Euclidean path integral calculations for BTZ black hole, which is surprising.

In this paper, we derive an *exact* expression for the partition function of the BTZ black hole in the Euclidean path integral approach. In this framework, three-dimensional gravity with a negative cosmological constant is described in terms of two SU(2) Chern-Simons theories [10], [11]. Then, SU(2) Wess-Zumino conformal field theories are naturally induced on the boundary [12]. The quantum degrees of freedom corresponding to the entropy of the black hole are described by these conformal field theories. From the exact expression of the partition function, we show that there is indeed a correction to the semi-classical entropy that is proportional to the logarithm of the area (horizon length in this case) with a coefficient -3/2 again in agreement with the result for a four dimensional black hole obtained in ref. [3].

The gravity action I_{grav} written in a first-order formalism (using triads e and spin connection ω) is the difference of two Chern-Simons actions.

$$I_{\text{grav}} = I_{\text{CS}}[A] - I_{\text{CS}}[\bar{A}], \qquad (1)$$

where

$$A = \left(\omega^a + \frac{i}{l} e^a\right) T_a, \qquad \bar{A} = \left(\omega^a - \frac{i}{l} e^a\right) T_a \tag{2}$$

are SL(2, C) gauge fields (with $T_a = -i\sigma_a/2$). Here, the negative cosmological constant $\Lambda = -(1/l^2)$. The Chern-Simons action $I_{\rm CS}[A]$ is

$$I_{\rm CS} = \frac{k}{4\pi} \int_M \text{Tr}\left(A \wedge dA + \frac{2}{3}A \wedge A \wedge A\right) \tag{3}$$

and the Chern-Simons coupling constant is k = l/4G. We note that we can rewrite the Lorentzian gravity action also as a Chern-Simons theory, and in that case, the Chern-Simons coupling constant k = -l/4G; Lorentzian gravity is obtained from the Euclidean theory by a continuation $G \to -G$.

Now, for a manifold with boundary, the Chern-Simons field theory is described by a Wess-Zumino conformal field theory on the boundary. Under the decomposition

$$A = g^{-1}dg + g^{-1}\tilde{A}g , \qquad (4)$$

the Chern-Simons action (3) becomes [14], [15]

$$I_{\rm CS}[A] = I_{\rm CS}[\tilde{A}] + k I_{\rm WZW}^+[g, \tilde{A}_z] , \qquad (5)$$

where $I^+_{WZW}[g, \tilde{A}_z]$ is the action of a chiral SU(2) Wess-Zumino model on the boundary ∂M ,

$$I_{\text{WZW}}^{+}[g, \tilde{A}_{z}] = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\partial M} \text{Tr} \left(g^{-1} \partial_{z} g \, g^{-1} \partial_{\bar{z}} g \, - \, 2g^{-1} \partial_{\bar{z}} g \tilde{A}_{z} \right) + \frac{1}{12\pi} \int_{M} \text{Tr} \left(g^{-1} dg \right)^{3}.$$
(6)

The 'pure gauge' degrees of freedom g are now true dynamical degrees of freedom at the boundary.

We are interested in computing the entropy of the Euclidean BTZ black hole. The Euclidean continuation of the BTZ black hole has the topology of a solid torus [16]. The metric for the Euclidean BTZ black hole in the usual Schwarzschild-like coordinates is

$$ds^{2} = N^{2} d\tau^{2} + N^{-2} dr^{2} + r^{2} (d\phi + N^{\phi} d\tau)^{2}$$
(7)

where τ here is the Euclidean time coordinate and

$$N = \left(-M + \frac{r^2}{l^2} - \frac{J^2}{4r^2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \qquad N_{\phi} = -\frac{J}{2r^2}$$
(8)

The inner and the outer horizons of the Lorentzian black hole solution get mapped in the Euclidean continuation to ir_{-} and r_{+} respectively, where

$$r_{\pm}^{2} = \frac{Ml^{2}}{2} \left[1 \pm \left(1 + \frac{J^{2}}{M^{2} l^{2}} \right)^{1/2} \right]$$
(9)

M and J are the mass and angular momentum of the black hole respectively.

As shown by Carlip and Teitelboim [16], after a coordinate transformation,

$$x = \left(\frac{r^2 - r_+^2}{r^2 - r_-^2}\right)^{1/2} \cos\left(\frac{r_+}{l^2}\tau + \frac{|r_-|}{l}\phi\right) \exp\left\{\frac{r_+}{l}\phi - \frac{|r_-|}{l^2}\tau\right\}$$

$$y = \left(\frac{r^2 - r_+^2}{r^2 - r_-^2}\right)^{1/2} \sin\left(\frac{r_+}{l^2}\tau + \frac{|r_-|}{l}\phi\right) \exp\left\{\frac{r_+}{l}\phi - \frac{|r_-|}{l^2}\tau\right\}$$
(10)
$$z = \left(\frac{r_+^2 - r_-^2}{r^2 - r_-^2}\right)^{1/2} \exp\left\{\frac{r_+}{l}\phi - \frac{|r_-|}{l^2}\tau\right\}$$

The black hole metric is just the metric for hyperbolic three-space \mathcal{H}_3

$$ds^{2} = \frac{l^{2}}{z^{2}} (dx^{2} + dy^{2} + dz^{2}), \qquad z > 0,$$
(11)

Changing to spherical coordinates

$$x = R\cos\theta\cos\chi, \quad y = R\sin\theta\cos\chi, \quad z = R\sin\chi,$$
 (12)

the metric is

$$ds^{2} = \frac{l^{2}}{R^{2} \sin^{2} \chi} \left[dR^{2} + R^{2} d\chi^{2} + R^{2} \cos^{2} \chi d\theta^{2} \right],$$
(13)

However, one must make global identifications to account for the periodicity of the ϕ coordinate in (7). These are

$$(\ln R, \ \theta, \ \chi) \ \sim \ (\ln R + \frac{2\pi r_+}{l}, \ \theta + \frac{2\pi |r_-|}{l}, \ \chi).$$
 (14)

The Euclidean BTZ black hole is obtained from hyperbolic space \mathcal{H}_3 by these global identifications.

Using (2), the connection A^a corresponding to the metric (13) may be written as:

$$A^{1} = -\csc\chi \ (d\theta - i\frac{dR}{R}), \qquad A^{2} = i\csc\chi \ d\chi, \qquad A^{3} = i\cot\chi \ (d\theta - i\frac{dR}{R}). \tag{15}$$

The Chern-Simons formulation of gravity was used to describe the BTZ black hole first in [13], where for the Lorentzian black hole, the corresponding gauge fields were evaluated.

In order to compute the black hole partition function, we first evaluate the Chern-Simons path integral on a solid torus. This path integral has been discussed in [14], [17], [18] and [19]. Through a suitable gauge transformation, the connection is set to a constant value on the toral boundary. In terms of coordinates on the toral boundary x and y with unit period, we can define $z = (x + \tau y)$ such that

$$\int_{A} dz = 1, \qquad \int_{B} dz = \tau \tag{16}$$

where A is the contractible cycle and B the non-contractible cycle of the solid torus and $\tau = \tau_1 + i\tau_2$ is the modular parameter of the boundary torus. Then, the connection can be written as [17]:

$$A = \left(\frac{-i\pi\tilde{u}}{\tau_2} d\bar{z} + \frac{i\pi u}{\tau_2} dz\right) T_3 \tag{17}$$

where u and \tilde{u} are canonically conjugate fields and obey the canonical commutation relation:

$$[\tilde{u}, u] = \frac{2\tau_2}{\pi(k+2)}$$
 (18)

They can be related to the black hole parameters by computing the holonomies of A around the contractible and non-contractible cycles of the solid torus. These holonomies have been computed in [16] for the general case of a rotating BTZ black hole solution with a conical singularity (Θ) at the horizon such that the identifications (14) characterizing the black hole now generalize to

$$(\ln R, \ \theta, \ \chi) \sim (\ln R, \ \theta + \ \Theta, \ \chi)$$
$$(\ln R, \ \theta, \ \chi) \sim (\ln R + \frac{2\pi r_+}{l}, \ \theta + \frac{2\pi |r_-|}{l}, \ \chi)$$
(19)

The former identification corresponds to the A cycle and the latter to the B cycle. Then the trace of the holonomies around the contractible cycle A and non-contractible cycle B are:

$$Tr(H_A) = 2\cosh(i\Theta), \quad Tr(H_B) = 2\cosh\left(\frac{2\pi}{l}(r_+ + i|r_-|)\right)$$
 (20)

For the classical black hole solution, $\Theta = 2\pi$. From (17),

$$A_z = \frac{-i\pi}{\tau_2} \tilde{u}, \qquad A_{\bar{z}} = \frac{i\pi}{\tau_2} u \tag{21}$$

where

$$u = \frac{-i}{2\pi} \left(-i\Theta\tau + \frac{2\pi(r_{+} + i|r_{-}|)}{l} \right), \qquad \tilde{u} = \frac{-i}{2\pi} \left(-i\Theta\bar{\tau} + \frac{2\pi(r_{+} + i|r_{-}|)}{l} \right)$$
(22)

We note here that \tilde{u} is the canonical conjugate, but not the complex conjugate of u. This is so because A is a complex SU(2) connection.

Now, we write the Chern-Simons path integral on a solid torus with a boundary modular parameter τ . For a fixed boundary value of the connection, i.e. a fixed value of u, this path integral is formally equivalent to a state $\psi_0(u, \tau)$ with no Wilson lines in the solid torus. The states corresponding to having closed Wilson lines (along the non-contractible cycle) carrying spin j/2 ($j \leq k$) representations in the solid torus are given by [14], [17], [18], [19]:

$$\psi_j(u,\tau) = \exp\left\{\frac{\pi k}{4\tau_2}u^2\right\} \chi_j(u,\tau), \qquad (23)$$

where χ_j are the Weyl-Kac characters for affine SU(2). The Weyl-Kac characters can be expressed in terms of the well-known Theta functions as

$$\chi_j(u,\tau) = \frac{\Theta_{j+1}^{(k+2)}(u,\tau,0) - \Theta_{-j-1}^{(k+2)}(u,\tau,0)}{\Theta_1^2(u,\tau,0) - \Theta_{-1}^2(u,\tau,0)}$$
(24)

where Theta functions are given by:

$$\Theta^k_{\mu}(u,\tau,z) = \exp\left(-2\pi i k z\right) \sum_{n\in\mathcal{Z}} \exp\left(2\pi i k \left[\left(n+\frac{\mu}{2k}\right)^2 \tau + \left(n+\frac{\mu}{2k}\right)u\right]\right]$$
(25)

The black hole partition function is to be constructed from the boundary state $\psi_0(u, \tau)$. To do that, we note the following:

a) We must first choose the appropriate ensemble. Here, we choose the microcanonical ensemble. This corresponds in our picture, to keeping the holonomy around the non-contractible cycle B fixed [20]. The holonomy around the contractible cycle A is Θ , which has a value 2π for the classical solution. But it is *not* held fixed any more, and we must sum over contributions to the partition function from all values of Θ . This corresponds to starting with the value of u for the classical solution, i.e. with $\Theta = 2\pi$ in (20), and then considering all other shifts of u of the form

$$u \to u + \alpha \tau$$
 (26)

where α is an arbitrary number. This is implemented by a translation operator of the form

$$T = \exp\left(\alpha \tau \frac{\partial}{\partial u}\right) \tag{27}$$

However, this operator is not gauge invariant. The only gauge-invariant way of implementing these translations is through Verlinde operators of the form

$$W_j = \sum_{n \in \Lambda_j} \exp\left(\frac{-n\pi\bar{\tau}u}{\tau_2} + \frac{n\tau}{k+2}\frac{\partial}{\partial u}\right)$$
(28)

where $\Lambda_j = -j, -j + 2, ..., j - 2, j$. This means that all possible shifts in u are not allowed, and from considerations of gauge invariance, the only possible shifts are

$$u \to u + \frac{n\tau}{k+2} \tag{29}$$

where n is always an integer taking a maximum value of k. Thus, the only allowed values of Θ are $2\pi(1 + \frac{n}{k+2})$. We know that acting on the state with no Wilson lines in the solid torus with the Verlinde operator W_j corresponds to inserting a Wilson line of spin j/2 around the non-contractible cycle. Thus, taking into account all states with different shifted values of u as

in (29) means that we have to take into account all the states in the boundary corresponding to the insertion of such Wilson lines. These are the states $\psi_i(u, \tau)$ given in (23).

b) In order to obtain the final partition function, we must integrate over all values of the modular parameter, i.e. over all inequivalent tori with the same holonomy around the non-contractible cycle. The integrand, which is a function of u and τ , must be the square of the partition function of a gauged $SU(2)_k$ Wess-Zumino model corresponding to the two SU(2) Chern-Simons theories. It must be modular invariant – modular invariance corresponds to large diffeomorphisms of the torus, and the partition function must not change under a modular transformation.

The partition function is then of the form

$$Z = \int d\mu(\tau, \bar{\tau}) \left| \sum_{j=0}^{k} a_j(\tau) \psi_j(u, \tau) \right|^2$$
(30)

where $d\mu(\tau, \bar{\tau})$ is the modular invariant measure, and the integration is over a fundamental domain in the τ plane. Coefficients $a_j(\tau)$ must be chosen such that the integrand is modular invariant. Under an S modular transformation, $\tau \to -1/\tau$ and $u \to u/\tau$, the $SU(2)_k$ characters transform as

$$\chi_{j}(u,\tau) \rightarrow \exp\left(-2\pi i k \frac{u^{2}}{4\tau}\right) \chi_{j}\left(\frac{u}{\tau}, \frac{-1}{\tau}\right)$$
$$= \exp\left(-2\pi i k \frac{u^{2}}{4\tau}\right) \sum_{l} S_{jl} \chi_{l}(u,\tau)$$
(31)

where matrix S_{jl} given by

$$S_{jl} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{k+2}} \sin\left[\frac{\pi(j+1)(l+1)}{k+2}\right], \qquad 0 \le j, \ l \le k$$
(32)

We note here that this S matrix is orthogonal: $\sum_{j} S_{lj} S_{jp} = \delta_{lp}$.

We are interested in the transformation property of the state $\psi_j(u, \tau)$ under an S modular transformation. The prefactor in (23) transforms into itself under such a transformation apart from an extra piece that exactly cancels the prefactor in (31). Thus, under an S transformation $(\tau \to -1/\tau)$,

$$\psi_j(u,\tau) \rightarrow \sum_l S_{jl} \psi_l(u,\tau)$$
 (33)

Under a \mathcal{T} modular transformation $(\tau \to \tau + 1), \psi_j(u, \tau)$ picks up a phase,

$$\psi_j(u,\tau) \rightarrow \exp(2\pi i m_j) \psi_j(u,\tau)$$
 (34)

where $m_j = \frac{(j+1)^2}{2(k+2)} - \frac{1}{4}$. For the integrand in (30) to be modular invariant, the coefficient $a_j(\tau)$ must transform under the S transformation as $a_j(\tau) \rightarrow \sum_p a_p(\tau) S_{pj}$ and under the T transformation as $a_j(\tau) \rightarrow \exp(-2\pi i m_j)a_j(\tau)$. Further, since the integrand must correspond to the square of the partition function of a gauged $SU(2)_k$ Wess-Zumino model, the coefficients $a_j(\tau)$ are just the complex conjugate of $SU(2)_k$ characters corresponding to u = 0, i.e $(\psi_j(0,\tau))^*$. The black hole partition function therefore is

$$Z_{bh} = \int d\mu(\tau, \bar{\tau}) \left| \sum_{j=0}^{k} (\psi_j(0, \tau))^* \psi_j(u, \tau) \right|^2$$
(35)

Finally the modular invariant measure is

$$d\mu(\tau,\bar{\tau}) = \frac{d\tau d\bar{\tau}}{\tau_2^2} \tag{36}$$

The expression (35) is an *exact* expression for the partition function of Euclidean black hole. To make a comparison with the semi-classical entropy of black hole, we evaluate the expression (35) for large horizon radius r_+ by the saddle-point method. Substituting from (23), (24) and (25), the saddle point of the integrand occurs when τ_2 is proportional to r_+ and therefore large. But for τ_2 large, the character χ_i is

$$\chi_j(\tau, u) \sim \exp\left[\frac{\pi i \left(\frac{(j+1)^2}{k+2} - \frac{1}{2}\right)}{2} \tau\right] \frac{\sin \pi (j+1)u}{\sin \pi u}$$
(37)

We now use in (35) the form of the character for large τ_2 from (37). In the expression for u in (20), we replace Θ by its classical value 2π . The computation has been done with positive coupling constant k and at the end, we must perform an analytic continuation to the Lorentzian black hole, by taking $G \to -G$. It can be checked that after the analytic continuation, it is the spin j = 0 in the sum over characters in (35) that dominates the partition function.

We obtain the leading behaviour of the partition function (35) for large r_+ (and when $|r_-| << r_+$) by first performing the integration over τ_1 in this regime. The τ_2 integration is done by the method of steepest descent. The saddle-point is at $\tau_2 = r_+/l$. Expanding around the saddle-point, by writing $\tau_2 = r_+/l + x$ and then integrating over x, we obtain

$$Z_{bh} = \frac{l^2}{r_+^2} \exp\left(\frac{-2\pi kr_+}{l}\right) \int dx \, \exp\left[-\frac{\pi kl}{2r_+} x^2\right]$$
(38)

The integration produces a factor proportional to $\sqrt{r_+}$. The partition function for the Lorentzian black hole of large horizon area $2\pi r_+$ after the analytic continuation $G \to -G$ is then

$$Z_{Lbh} = \frac{l^2}{r_+^2} \sqrt{\frac{8r_+G}{\pi l^2}} \exp\left(\frac{2\pi r_+}{4G}\right)$$
(39)

up to a multiplicative constant. The logarithm of this expression yields the black hole entropy for large horizon length r_+ :

$$S = \frac{2\pi r_{+}}{4G} - \frac{3}{2}\log\left(\frac{2\pi r_{+}}{4G}\right) + \dots$$
 (40)

The leading contribution to the black hole entropy is the familiar Bekenstein-Hawking term. The next-order correction to the semi-classical entropy is the logarithm of the black hole area $2\pi r_+$. The coefficient -3/2 of this correction is in agreement with that of the logarithmic correction of semi-classical entropy of four dimensional Schwarzschild black hole first observed in ref. [3] in the quantum geometry formulation of gravity. The semi-classical Bekenstein-Hawking entropy for Euclidean BTZ black hole was previously studied in the path integral formulation in ref. [8], but the logarithmic correction was not seen there. As described above, the right logarithmic correction is obtained by considering the correct modular invariant measure while integrating over all inequivalent tori (as the holonomy around the non-contractible cycle is held fixed).

The calculation presented here should be contrasted with an earlier calculation of partition function of a BTZ black hole coupled to a scalar field [21]. This is a perturbative one-loop calculation which incorporates a specific type of fluctuation, namely a scalar field. For small r_+ , this leads to a different coefficient of the the logarithmic correction in the entropy. On the other hand, our calculation is exact; it includes all possible quantum gravity fluctuations. It is therefore not surprising that the results differ.

Finally, we make a few remarks on the AdS gas partition function. As is well known [22], the action for the AdS gas can be obtained from that of the BTZ black hole by a transformation. For the case of a non-rotating black hole, this transformation has the form $r_+/l \rightarrow l/r_+$. With this change, the AdS gas partition function is

$$Z_{AdS}[r_{+}] = \int d\mu(\tau, \bar{\tau}) \left| \sum_{j=0}^{k} (\psi_{j}(0, \tau))^{*} \psi_{j}(u', \tau) \right|^{2}$$
(41)

where $u' = \frac{-i}{2\pi} \left(-i2\pi\tau + \frac{2\pi l}{r_+} \right)$.

The AdS gas partition function can again be evaluated by saddle-point method. Small r_+ leads to a saddle-point with τ_2 large. In this limit of small r_+ (i.e small temperature), the partition function is

$$Z_{AdS}[r_{+}] = \left(\frac{r_{+}}{l}\right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \exp\left(\frac{2\pi l^{2}}{4r_{+}G}\right)$$
(42)

This, at the leading order, agrees with the corresponding expression obtained in ref. [22].

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