

Universidade de São Paulo  
Instituto de Física de São Carlos

XII Semana Integrada do Instituto de  
Física de São Carlos

Livro de Resumos

São Carlos  
2022

# Semana Integrada do Instituto de Física de São Carlos

SIFSC 12

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Ficha catalográfica elaborada pelo Serviço de Informação do IFSC

Semana Integrada do Instituto de Física de São Carlos  
(12: 10 out. - 14 out. : 2022: São Carlos, SP.)  
Livro de resumos da XII Semana Integrada do Instituto de Física de São Carlos/ Organizado por Adonai Hilario [et al.]. São Carlos: IFSC, 2022.

446 p.

Texto em português.

1. Física. I. Hilario, Adonai, org. II. Título

ISBN: 978-65-993449-5-4

CDD: 530

## PG101

### On the nature of the black hole information problem

BERGAMASCHI, Thiago; BERNARDES, Esmerindo de Souza

tbergamaschi@ifsc.usp.br

One of the most interesting predictions of general relativity is that a complete gravitational collapse leads to regions where not even light can escape. Although it is still unclear what theory would be adequate to describe the interior of this region, known as a black hole, one can use the framework of general relativity to study the dynamics of bodies in its surroundings, as well as a description of geometrical quantities measured by outside observers. This description is known as the laws of black hole mechanics, which are derived based on the geometrical properties of spacetime and Einstein's equation, and appeared to have a striking similarity with the laws of thermodynamics. Through semiclassical arguments, a deeper physical connection can be made, as the geometrical quantities related in the laws of black hole mechanics can be directly associated with those appearing in the laws of thermodynamics. (1) These developments, achieved by considerations from general relativity, thermodynamics, and quantum field theory, give rise to a problem concerning the preservation of information. (2) This problem appears as one considers particle creation effects at the horizon of a black hole, which results in the emission of radiation with perfect thermal spectrum. If this evaporation process is carried out, outside observers would only have access to the mass, angular momentum and charge of the black hole, as stated by the "no-hair" theorem. Therefore, information about the initial state of the black hole would be lost. The information problem is a question of whether information is truly lost, or if there is a more adequate theory to describe the process of black hole evaporation. We aim to analyse the assumptions that led to the information problem, while searching for connections with open questions regarding the dynamical origin of the entropy of a black hole and a quantum theory of gravity. As a first step, we study the mathematical framework and physical concepts required to depict black holes. Eventually, we will analyse the effects predicted by quantum field theory in curved spacetime, and study the connection with thermodynamics in order to reformulate the problem.

**Palavras-chave:** General relativity. Black hole thermodynamics. Information problem.

**Agência de fomento:** CAPES (88887.670913/2022-00)

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