Title: The Fluid Spacetime Hypothesis: A New Perspective on Light, Gravity, and Wave-Particle Duality

Author: Tirth Sathwara

Abstract:

This document explores a novel interpretation of fundamental physics, proposing that spacetime behaves like a dynamic, fluid-like medium. Based on real-life observations-such as Bournvita spirals in milk, broken shadows at air-water boundaries, and light distortion in water-this theory suggests that light is fundamentally a particle, and its wave-like behaviors emerge due to the fluidic structure of spacetime. Building on ideas from analogue gravity, thermodynamics, and emergent gravity, this hypothesis offers an alternative explanation to wave-particle duality and gravitational lensing.

1. Introduction

Modern physics describes light as both a particle and a wave. Gravity is explained as the curvature of spacetime, and spacetime itself is often visualized as a smooth, elastic geometry. But what if this spacetime is more than a geometric structure-what if it behaves like a fluid? Inspired by simple observations in daily life, this document proposes that the wave-like behavior of light and gravitational phenomena may stem from the underlying fluidic nature of spacetime.

2. Real-Life Observations and Analogies

2.1 Bournvita in Milk Stirring Bournvita into milk creates a central vortex where particles near the center spin faster, while outer particles spin slower. This mimics how planets orbit stars: the closer ones move faster due to

stronger gravitational pull. The milk acts like spacetime, the spoon's motion represents a rotating mass like a star, and the Bournvita granules behave like orbiting bodies. This is a visual analogy for frame dragging.

2.2 Shadow Broken at Air-Water Boundary Dipping a finger halfway into water causes the shadow on the bottom of the tub to split. The area at the boundary becomes "invisible" as light refracts and diffuses. This represents how light behaves at regions with changing spacetime curvature-similar to gravitational lensing near a black hole.

2.3 Light Bending Around Fingers in Water In water, light curves around submerged objects, creating a distorted visual effect. This matches how starlight bends around massive celestial objects, not because the light changes, but because the medium (spacetime) it travels through is curved or fluid-like.

2.4 Wave-like Behavior Without Wave Nature The idea emerges: What if light is always a particle, and its wave properties (interference, diffraction) arise from moving through a medium-fluidic spacetime-that causes it to behave like a wave, similar to how pebbles thrown into a pond create ripples.

3. The Core Theory: Light as Particle, Wave from Fluid Spacetime

Wave-particle duality remains one of the biggest mysteries in quantum mechanics. This theory proposes that photons are fundamentally particles, and their wave-like behavior arises because of the structure of the medium they travel through. If spacetime is a dynamic, fluid-like medium, then light particles may follow paths influenced by turbulence, curvature, or pressure gradients, which resemble wave behavior.

Thus, wave-particle duality is not a dual property of photons themselves, but an emergent behavior resulting from fluid-like spacetime dynamics.

4. Scientific Foundations and Supporting Theories

4.1 Analogue Gravity Physicists like William Unruh and Matt Visser have shown that fluids and Bose-Einstein condensates can mimic black holes and spacetime curvature. This means wave behavior can emerge purely from fluid dynamics-supporting the fluid spacetime analogy.

4.2 Frame Dragging and Vortex Dynamics General relativity predicts frame dragging near rotating masses. Just like stirring a fluid causes nearby particles to orbit faster, a spinning star or black hole pulls spacetime around with it. This matches the Bournvita vortex analogy.

4.3 Emergent Gravity (Erik Verlinde) Verlinde's theory suggests gravity is not a fundamental force but emerges from information and entropy flow, like pressure in a fluid. This aligns with the idea of spacetime as a thermodynamic, emergent medium.

4.4 Pilot Wave Theory (de Broglie-Bohm)
This interpretation states particles are guided by an underlying wave. The fluid spacetime model proposes that this guiding wave is part of the spacetime medium itself.

4.5 Thermodynamics of Spacetime (Ted Jacobson)
Jacobson derived Einstein's equations using thermodynamic laws, showing spacetime behaves like a system with entropy and temperature-just like a fluid.

5. Mathematical Framework

Snell's Law (Refraction):

$$n_1 \sin\theta_1 = n_2 \sin\theta_2$$

Describes how light bends when transitioning between media-mirroring how light bends in curved spacetime.

Fermat's Principle of Least Time:

$$\delta \int_A^B n(x,y)\, ds = 0$$

Explains how light chooses the fastest path in a medium. In spacetime, this principle becomes geodesics-the path light takes in curved space.

Geodesic Equation (General Relativity):

$$\frac{d^2x^\mu}{d\lambda^2} + \Gamma^\mu_{\nu\rho} \frac{dx^\nu}{d\lambda} \frac{dx^\rho}{d\lambda} = 0$$

This describes how particles move in curved spacetime-similar to particles following a vortex in fluid.

6. Implications and Applications

- Offers a fresh perspective on wave-particle duality
- Could help unify general relativity and quantum mechanics
- May be testable through analogue experiments (fluids, simulations)
- Can inspire new optical or gravitational technologies
- Encourages science education through real-world analogies

7. Conclusion

From a breakfast cup of Bournvita to shadows in a bathtub, everyday observations hint at a deeper truth: spacetime may be more than geometry-it may be a dynamic, wave-supporting fluid. If so, then many mysteries of light, gravity, and the quantum world may not be dualities but illusions caused by the nature of the medium itself. The Fluid Spacetime Hypothesis invites further exploration into the real nature of reality.

8. References and Inspiration

- Erik Verlinde - Emergent Gravity
- William Unruh - Analogue Gravity
- Matt Visser - Effective Metrics in Fluids
- G.E. Volovik - Superfluid Vacuum Theory
- Ted Jacobson - Thermodynamics of Spacetime
- Louis de Broglie & David Bohm - Pilot Wave Theory
- Tirth Sathwara - Real-world inspired analogies and original hypothesis