

Thermodynamics of the Swirl Condensate: Temperature, Heat, and the Geometric Deformation of Equilibrium Boundaries in Swirl–String Theory

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Abstract

In Swirl–String Theory (SST), a bound electronic state is represented by a closed swirl filament whose geometry contains two intrinsic length scales: the core radius r_c , which characterises the topological filament itself, and the Bohr radius a_0 , which sets the equilibrium size of the Coulomb envelope. Although previous SST thermodynamic formulations were expressed solely in terms of r_c , a physically complete treatment of atomic systems requires both scales. Using the canonical SST relation

$$a_0 = \frac{c^2}{2 \|\mathbf{v}_\odot\|^2} r_c,$$

we show that a_0 is not an independent constant but an emergent, dynamically coupled outer boundary of the ground-state hydrogen torus. This leads naturally to a two-scale swelling theory in which thermodynamic deformation involves simultaneous variations of the core and orbital radii, $(r, R) = (r_c, a_0) \rightarrow (r_c + \delta r, a_0 + \delta R)$. We define a unified swirl temperature

$$T_{\text{swirl}} = \Theta \epsilon, \quad \epsilon \simeq \frac{r - r_c}{r_c} \simeq \frac{R - a_0}{a_0},$$

showing that orbital and core strains coincide to first order because a_0 inherits its variation from r_c . The resulting enthalpy $H_{\text{swirl}}(R, r)$ produces an effective stiffness

$$K_{\text{eff}} = K_{RR} a_0^2 + 2K_{Rr} a_0 r_c + K_{rr} r_c^2,$$

yielding a low-temperature equation of state

$$E(T_{\text{swirl}}) - E(0) \propto T_{\text{swirl}}^2, \quad C_V \propto T_{\text{swirl}},$$

with both thermodynamic and chronometric behaviour dominated by the coupling between the two geometric scales. This framework unifies swelling dynamics, heat capacity, and swirl–clock time dilation in a single analytic structure, providing a consistent thermodynamic description of hydrogen and establishing a foundation for SST-based models of atomic stability and excitation.

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1 Introduction: Ontological Necessity of a Hydrodynamic Thermodynamics

The unifying framework of Swirl–String Theory (SST) posits a fundamental reorientation of physical ontology: the vacuum is not a passive geometric manifold nor a probabilistic quantum field, but a physical, frictionless, incompressible fluid condensate—the “swirl medium”. Within this paradigm, the elementary constituents of matter—electrons, quarks, and neutrinos—are identified not as point particles, but as topologically stable knotted vortex filaments, or “swirl strings”, characterized by quantized circulation Γ_0 and discrete topological invariants.

Kinematic and electromagnetic sectors of SST have been formulated via the Chronos–Kelvin invariants and the Swirl–EM bridge, while the thermodynamic sector remains the critical frontier for a complete description of physical reality. This work establishes the *Thermodynamics of Swirl Boundaries*: a theoretical extension of the SST Canon that defines Temperature T and Heat Q through the geometric deformation of vortex atoms.

We reject the standard kinetic theory definition of heat as random agitation of microscopic constituents, since the ground-state flow of the swirl medium is laminar, inviscid, and deterministic. Instead, thermodynamic variables emerge from the elasticity of the vacuum condensate itself. Specifically:

- **Temperature** is defined as the measure of the radial swelling of a vortex core’s equilibrium boundary against the confining pressure of the vacuum.
- **Heat** is defined as the mechanical work performed to induce this geometric expansion.

The necessity of this thermodynamic formulation arises from the *Zero-Parameter Principle* of SST: all dimensional constants must be derived from the primitive triplet (Γ_0, ρ_f, r_c) . If mass, charge, and time are hydrodynamic consequences of this triplet, then entropy and temperature must also originate in the fluid mechanics of the substrate.

We show that the laws of thermodynamics emerge as consequences of Euler–Lagrange dynamics applied to topological defects. Phenomena as diverse as the hydrogen spectrum, the time-resolved Unruh “echo” in superradiance, and the stability of nuclear isomers are unified under a thermodynamic description of boundary swelling.

1.1 The Equilibrium Boundary Hypothesis

The central postulate is that every stable particle (T-phase knot) exists in a state of hydrodynamic equilibrium defined by the balance of two opposing pressures:

1. *Internal centrifugal pressure* P_{cent} , generated by the quantized circulation Γ of the fluid spinning around the vortex core (tending to expand the loop).
2. *Vacuum confining pressure* P_{vac} , the ambient hydrostatic pressure of the swirl condensate, identified with the SST cosmological term Λ_{SST} and the background energy density (tending to collapse the loop).

The *equilibrium boundary* r_c is the radial distance at which these pressures balance. Thermodynamics in SST is thus the study of perturbations of this boundary. When energy is injected (heat), the circulation Γ is topologically protected; it cannot vary continuously. The system instead accommodates excess energy by expanding the volume of the vortex core (temperature). This swelling alters the coupling of the particle to the vacuum, modifying its effective mass, gravitational signature, and interaction cross-sections.

2 Foundations of Hydrodynamic Equilibrium

2.1 Primitive Substrate and Canonical Constants

The thermodynamic state of any swirl string is anchored in the properties of the underlying medium. The SST Canon defines the primitive constants of the condensate, which serve as the “atomic units” of the thermodynamic system.

Constant	Symbol	Value (SI)	Thermodynamic significance
Circulation quantum	Γ_0	$\approx 6.4 \times 10^3 \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$	Adiabatic invariant; circulation conserved in reversible motion
Effective density	ρ_f	$\approx 7.0 \times 10^{-7} \text{ kg/m}^3$	“Thermal mass” of the vacuum; sets heat capacity
Core radius	r_c	$\approx 1.41 \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}$	Zero-point geometric scale; volume at $T = 0$
Swirl speed limit	v_g	$\approx 1.09 \times 10^6 \text{ m/s}$	Effective sound speed of swirl excitations (“swirlons”)
Mass-equivalent density	ρ_m	$\approx 3.89 \times 10^{18} \text{ kg/m}^3$	Energy density of fluid motion; relates enthalpy to circulation

These values, calibrated from the electron mass and the hydrogen spectrum, define the mechanical properties of the vacuum “material” that undergoes thermodynamic deformation.

2.2 Euler–Bernoulli Balance and Swirl Pressure Law

In the inviscid limit, the governing equations reduce to Euler’s equations. For a steady, axisymmetric vortex filament with purely azimuthal velocity $v_\theta(r)$, the radial component of Euler’s equation reads

$$\frac{1}{\rho_f} \frac{dp}{dr} = \frac{v_\theta^2}{r}, \quad (\text{Swirl Pressure Law}) \quad (1)$$

so that

$$\frac{dp}{dr} = \rho_f \frac{v_\theta^2}{r}. \quad (2)$$

For SST applications we identify the canonical swirl speed with the tangential velocity at the core boundary,

$$\|\mathbf{v}_\text{O}\| \equiv v_\theta(r_c) = \frac{\Gamma}{2\pi r_c},$$

so that the full profile can be written as

$$v_\theta(r) = \|\mathbf{v}_\text{O}\|, \frac{r_c}{r}.$$

For a potential vortex outside the core,

$$v_\theta(r) = \frac{\Gamma}{2\pi r}, \quad (3)$$

and we obtain

$$\frac{dp}{dr} = \rho_f \frac{\Gamma^2}{4\pi^2} \frac{1}{r^3}. \quad (4)$$

Integrating from radius r to infinity (where $p \rightarrow P_\infty$) yields

$$\int_{p(r)}^{P_\infty} dp = \int_r^\infty \rho_f \frac{\Gamma^2}{4\pi^2 r'^3} dr' = \frac{1}{2} \rho_f \frac{\Gamma^2}{4\pi^2} \frac{1}{r^2}, \quad (5)$$

hence the Bernoulli pressure deficit

$$P(r) = P_\infty - \frac{1}{2} \rho_f \left(\frac{\Gamma}{2\pi r} \right)^2 = P_\infty - \frac{1}{2} \rho_f v_\theta^2(r). \quad (6)$$

Thus the pressure at the vortex boundary is lower than the ambient vacuum pressure by the dynamic pressure $\frac{1}{2} \rho_f v^2$. In SST, this pressure deficit encodes the attractive potential well of the particle.

Analogy. Voor een kind: imagine spinning water in a bucket; the faster the water spins, the deeper the surface becomes in de middel. Hier is de “emmer” het vacuum en de diepe plek is waar het deeltje zit.

2.3 Stability Condition and Ground State

For the vortex core to be stable (no collapse or runaway expansion), the internal core pressure P_{core} must match the boundary pressure at equilibrium radius r_c . At $T = 0$ we define the *ground state* by

$$P_{\text{core}}(r_c) = P(r_c) = P_\infty - \frac{1}{2} \rho_f v_g^2, \quad (7)$$

where $v_g = v_\theta(r_c)$ is the canonical swirl speed at the equilibrium boundary. Equation (7) encodes the mechanical balance of the “cold” atom; any energy injection (heat) perturbs this balance, forcing r away from r_c until a new equilibrium is reached. This displacement realizes temperature.

3 The Swelling Hypothesis: Defining Thermodynamic Variables

In SST, a bound electronic state such as hydrogen 1s is represented by a swirl string forming a torus with:

$$R_0 = a_0, \quad r_0 = r_c, \quad (8)$$

where R_0 is the major (orbital) radius and r_0 the minor (core) radius. The Bohr radius a_0 is not an independent constant: the Canon relates it to the core scale r_c and the characteristic swirl speed $\|\mathbf{v}_\text{o}\|$ via

$$a_0 = \frac{c^2}{2\|\mathbf{v}_\text{o}\|^2} r_c, \quad (9)$$

which numerically reproduces the CODATA Bohr radius to within $\mathcal{O}(10^{-8})$. This establishes a two-scale geometry: r_c controls the knot core, while a_0 controls the Coulomb envelope of the hydrogen ground state.

We now define temperature, heat, and the SST equation of state including both scales.

3.1 Two-Scale Temperature as Radial Strain

We introduce dimensionless radial strains for the core and the orbital envelope:

$$\epsilon_c \equiv \frac{r - r_c}{r_c}, \quad \epsilon_o \equiv \frac{R - a_0}{a_0}, \quad (10)$$

with corresponding swirl temperatures

$$T_{\text{core}} \equiv \Theta_c \epsilon_c = \Theta_c \frac{r - r_c}{r_c}, \quad T_{\text{orb}} \equiv \Theta_o \epsilon_o = \Theta_o \frac{R - a_0}{a_0}. \quad (11)$$

Here Θ_c and Θ_o are scaling constants with dimensions of Kelvin, determined by the effective bulk moduli of the core and orbital sectors of the swirl medium.

Because a_0 and r_c are linked by Eq. (9), small variations around the ground state obey

$$\frac{\delta a_0}{a_0} = \frac{\delta r_c}{r_c} \Rightarrow \epsilon_o \approx \epsilon_c \quad (\text{linear order}). \quad (12)$$

Thus, to first order near the hydrogen ground state,

$$T_{\text{orb}} \approx \frac{\Theta_o}{\Theta_c} T_{\text{core}}. \quad (13)$$

For simplicity in what follows, and in the hydrogenic limit, we choose a single canonical scaling $\Theta_c = \Theta_o \equiv \Theta$, and define a unified swirl temperature

$$T_{\text{swirl}} \equiv \Theta \epsilon, \quad \epsilon \equiv \frac{r - r_c}{r_c} \simeq \frac{R - a_0}{a_0}, \quad (14)$$

so that both core and Bohr-envelope swelling are encoded in the same dimensionless strain ϵ .

Physical regimes:

- $T_{\text{swirl}} = 0$: $r = r_c$, $R = a_0$. The torus matches the hydrogen ground-state geometry.
- $T_{\text{swirl}} > 0$: $r > r_c$, $R > a_0$; the core and/or orbital radius are swollen, corresponding to excited electronic or bound states.
- $T_{\text{swirl}} < 0$: would correspond to over-compression below the vacuum ground state, typically forbidden except in extreme collapse regimes.

3.2 Heat as Combined Boundary Work

The torus volume of a swirl atom is

$$V(R, r) = 2\pi^2 R r^2. \quad (15)$$

Small variations yield

$$dV = 2\pi^2 (r^2 dR + 2Rr dr). \quad (16)$$

We define heat as the enthalpy increment needed to change (R, r) against vacuum pressure:

$$\delta Q = dU_{\text{internal}} + P_{\text{vac}} dV, \quad (17)$$

where U_{internal} is the total swirl kinetic energy, which we decompose as

$$U_{\text{internal}}(R, r) = E_{\text{core}}(r) + E_{\text{orb}}(R) + E_{\text{coupling}}(R, r). \quad (18)$$

Here E_{core} describes the energy associated with the tightly curved core flow, E_{orb} the large-scale orbital flow, and E_{coupling} the interaction (e.g. shared envelope of the proton and electron swirl fields).

Linearising around the ground state $(R_0, r_0) = (a_0, r_c)$, we obtain

$$dU_{\text{internal}} \simeq \left. \frac{\partial U_{\text{internal}}}{\partial r} \right|_0 dr + \left. \frac{\partial U_{\text{internal}}}{\partial R} \right|_0 dR. \quad (19)$$

Substituting $dr = r_c d\epsilon$ and $dR = a_0 d\epsilon$ (along the unified swelling path $\epsilon_c \simeq \epsilon_o \equiv \epsilon$), Eq. (16) becomes

$$dV \simeq 2\pi^2 (r_0^2 a_0 + 2R_0 r_0^2) d\epsilon = 2\pi^2 r_c^2 a_0 (1 + 2) d\epsilon = 6\pi^2 r_c^2 a_0 d\epsilon, \quad (20)$$

and we can rewrite δQ as

$$\delta Q \simeq \mathcal{A} d\epsilon + P_{\text{vac}} 6\pi^2 r_c^2 a_0 d\epsilon, \quad (21)$$

where

$$\mathcal{A} \equiv \left. \frac{\partial U_{\text{internal}}}{\partial r} \right|_0 r_c + \left. \frac{\partial U_{\text{internal}}}{\partial R} \right|_0 a_0 \quad (22)$$

collects the first derivatives of the kinetic energy. Using $T_{\text{swirl}} = \Theta \epsilon$ and $d\epsilon = dT_{\text{swirl}}/\Theta$, Eq. (21) becomes

$$\delta Q = C_{\text{eff}}(T) dT_{\text{swirl}}, \quad C_{\text{eff}}(T) \equiv \frac{1}{\Theta} [\mathcal{A} + 6\pi^2 P_{\text{vac}} r_c^2 a_0], \quad (23)$$

which defines an effective heat capacity combining core and orbital contributions.

Analogy. Voor een kind: je hebt een donut (orbitaal) met een dikkere ring (kern). Verwarmen is alsof je de hele donut opblaast: zowel de grote straal als de dikte groeien, en je moet op beide tegelijk werk verrichten.

3.3 Swirl Equation of State for the Hydrogen Ground State

For a thin vortex ring of radius R and core radius r in an incompressible fluid the kinetic energy is approximately [1]

$$E_{\text{kin}}(R, r) \simeq \frac{1}{2} \rho_f \Gamma^2 R \left[\ln\left(\frac{8R}{r}\right) - \alpha \right], \quad \alpha \sim \mathcal{O}(1), \quad (24)$$

which we rewrite in SST as

$$E_{\text{kin}}(R, r) \approx \frac{1}{2} \rho_f \Gamma^2 R \ln\left(\frac{R}{r}\right) + \text{const.} \quad (25)$$

The vacuum displacement energy is

$$E_{\text{vac}}(R, r) = P_\infty V(R, r) = 2\pi^2 P_\infty R r^2. \quad (26)$$

The swirl enthalpy for a hydrogenic ring is then

$$H_{\text{swirl}}(R, r) = E_{\text{kin}}(R, r) + E_{\text{vac}}(R, r) + E_{\text{surf}}(R, r), \quad (27)$$

where E_{surf} encodes surface tension and director-gradient terms.

We expand H_{swirl} around the ground state $(R_0, r_0) = (a_0, r_c)$:

$$H_{\text{swirl}}(R, r) \simeq H_0 + \frac{1}{2} (\delta R \quad \delta r) \mathbf{K} \begin{pmatrix} \delta R \\ \delta r \end{pmatrix}, \quad (28)$$

with $\delta R \equiv R - R_0$, $\delta r \equiv r - r_0$, $H_0 = H_{\text{swirl}}(R_0, r_0)$, and stiffness matrix

$$\mathbf{K} = \begin{pmatrix} K_{RR} & K_{Rr} \\ K_{rR} & K_{rr} \end{pmatrix} = \left. \begin{pmatrix} \partial^2 H / \partial R^2 & \partial^2 H / \partial R \partial r \\ \partial^2 H / \partial r \partial R & \partial^2 H / \partial r^2 \end{pmatrix} \right|_{(R_0, r_0)}. \quad (29)$$

Along the unified swelling path $\delta R = a_0 \epsilon$, $\delta r = r_c \epsilon$ with $\epsilon = T_{\text{swirl}}/\Theta$, we find

$$H_{\text{swirl}}(T_{\text{swirl}}) \simeq H_0 + \frac{1}{2} K_{\text{eff}} \left(\frac{T_{\text{swirl}}}{\Theta} \right)^2, \quad (30)$$

where the effective stiffness

$$K_{\text{eff}} = K_{RR} a_0^2 + 2K_{Rr} a_0 r_c + K_{rr} r_c^2. \quad (31)$$

Thus the internal energy above the ground state scales as

$$E(T_{\text{swirl}}) - E(0) \propto T_{\text{swirl}}^2, \quad (32)$$

and the heat capacity at fixed knot topology is

$$C_V(T_{\text{swirl}}) \equiv \frac{dE}{dT_{\text{swirl}}} \simeq K_{\text{eff}} \frac{T_{\text{swirl}}}{\Theta^2}, \quad (33)$$

linear in T_{swirl} at low temperature. The two-scale structure is fully absorbed into K_{eff} , which combines core and orbital stiffness.

3.4 Inverse-Time Cooling with Core–Orbital Coupling

The SST Chronos–Kelvin relation ties local proper time to swirl speed via

$$S_t = \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}, \quad v = v_\theta(r) = \frac{\Gamma}{2\pi r}, \quad (34)$$

so that the core radius r directly controls time dilation. Heating the swirl atom along the unified swelling path increases both r and R ($T_{\text{swirl}} > 0$), but the dominant effect on the clock is via the core:

$$r = r_c(1 + \epsilon), \quad v(r) = \frac{\Gamma}{2\pi r_c} \frac{1}{1 + \epsilon}. \quad (35)$$

For small ϵ ,

$$v^2(r) \simeq v_0^2(1 - 2\epsilon), \quad v_0 \equiv \frac{\Gamma}{2\pi r_c}, \quad (36)$$

and

$$S_t(\epsilon) = \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2(r)}{c^2}} \simeq \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_0^2}{c^2} + 2\epsilon \frac{v_0^2}{c^2}}. \quad (37)$$

Hence, as T_{swirl} increases ($\epsilon > 0$), v^2/c^2 decreases and S_t moves closer to unity: the internal clock of a swollen, excited atom runs *faster* than that of the compact ground state. The two-scale structure is crucial: experimentele verhitting zie je macroscopisch als orbitaalzwelling $R \rightarrow a_0 + \delta R$, maar via de SST-relaties $a_0(r_c, \|\mathbf{v}_0\|)$ en de gezamenlijke rek ϵ koppelt dat direct aan coreswelling en dus aan tijdsdilatatie.

In summary:

- Cold hydrogen: $r \approx r_c$, $R \approx a_0$, large swirl speed $v(r)$, strong time dilation, maximal stability.
- Hot/excited hydrogen: $r > r_c$, $R > a_0$, reduced $v(r)$, weaker time dilation, accelerated decay.

Excited states are therefore thermodynamically and chronologically unstable: they occupy a shallower enthalpy minimum in the two-scale potential and experience less swirl-induced time dilation than the ground state.

4 Thermodynamics of the Golden Layer

4.1 Discrete Scale Invariance and Fractal Heat Capacity

The Golden Principle of SST introduces a distinguished constant $\phi > 1$ (defined in Canon G1 via a hyperbolic parametrization) and a log-periodic structure for mass and energy layers. A convenient potential for the energy density ρ_E supporting discrete scale invariance is

$$V_\phi(\rho_E) = \Lambda^4 \left[1 - \cos \left(\frac{2\pi}{\ln \phi} \ln \frac{\rho_E}{\rho_E^*} \right) \right], \quad (38)$$

with minima log-periodic in ρ_E . Since $\rho_E \propto v^2 \propto 1/r^2$, the stability landscape in r is likewise log-periodic, so a swirl core resists continuous swelling and instead prefers discrete jumps between “Golden Layers”.

At the thermodynamic level, this leads to a *fractal heat capacity*. A simple phenomenological ansatz for a single vortex atom or a small ensemble is

$$C_V(T) \simeq C_0 \left[1 + A \cos \left(\frac{2\pi}{\ln \phi} \ln \frac{T}{T_*} + \delta \right) \right], \quad (39)$$

with baseline C_0 , modulation amplitude A , reference temperature T_* , and phase δ . The log-periodicity $\Delta \ln T = \ln \phi$ is a direct, falsifiable signature of Golden Layering, analogous to log-periodic corrections in discrete-scale invariant systems [5].

4.2 Thermal Protection and the Golden Filter

The SST mass functional includes a suppression factor ϕ^{-2k} for deeper topological layers indexed by k . This implies that inner structures of composite knots (e.g. proton quark linkages) are exponentially decoupled from thermal noise:

- Outer, small- k layers can swell and fluctuate with ambient temperature (meson cloud, orbital dynamics).
- Inner, large- k layers remain effectively frozen until thermal energy crosses the Golden gap.

The Golden Filter thereby explains proton stability: ordinary thermal turbulence cannot bridge the hierarchy between accessible outer layers and deep core topology.

A Swirl Enthalpy Functional

The specific enthalpy h of a given vortex state is

$$h = u + P v, \quad v = \frac{1}{\rho_f}, \quad (40)$$

where u is the specific internal energy and v the specific volume. For a single ring:

$$E_{\text{kin}}(r) \approx \frac{1}{2} \rho_f \Gamma^2 R \ln\left(\frac{R}{r}\right), \quad (41)$$

$$E_{\text{vac}}(r) = P_\infty 2\pi^2 R r^2, \quad (42)$$

$$E_{\text{surf}}(r) \sim \sigma 4\pi^2 R r \propto \frac{\kappa_{\text{elastic}}}{r} 4\pi^2 R r = 4\pi^2 R \kappa_{\text{elastic}}, \quad (43)$$

where σ is an effective surface tension of the director field. Collecting terms:

$$H_{\text{swirl}}(r) = E_{\text{kin}}(r) + E_{\text{vac}}(r) + E_{\text{surf}}(r), \quad (44)$$

and the stiffness K_r that enters the single-scale harmonic expansion of H_{swirl} is

$$K_r = \left. \frac{d^2 H_{\text{swirl}}}{dr^2} \right|_{r=r_c}. \quad (45)$$

The breathing mode frequency for small oscillations follows as

$$\omega_{\text{breath}}^2 \sim \frac{K_r}{M_{\text{eff}}}, \quad M_{\text{eff}} \sim \rho_f V(r_c), \quad (46)$$

with $V(r_c) = 2\pi^2 R r_c^2$. This provides a direct mapping between thermodynamic stiffness, spectroscopy of scalar resonances, and SST geometry.

B Boltzmann–Swirl Probability Distribution

For a vacuum with effective noise temperature Θ_{vac} , the probability of a given core radius r is

$$P(r) \propto \exp\left[-\frac{H_{\text{swirl}}(r)}{k_{\text{SST}} \Theta_{\text{vac}}}\right], \quad (47)$$

where k_{SST} is the Boltzmann analogue of the swirl medium. Near equilibrium, using a harmonic expansion of H_{swirl} ,

$$P(r) \propto \exp\left[-\frac{K_r(r - r_c)^2}{2k_{\text{SST}} \Theta_{\text{vac}}}\right], \quad (48)$$

so radius fluctuations are Gaussian:

$$\langle (r - r_c)^2 \rangle = \frac{k_{\text{SST}} \Theta_{\text{vac}}}{K_r}. \quad (49)$$

The positional fuzziness van het elektron (en andere deeltjes) kan zo geïnterpreteerd worden als thermische fluctuaties van een vortextrand in plaats van fundamentele onbepaaldheid.

C Log-Periodic Heat Capacity

Starting from the Golden potential (38) one can model the density of states as a sum over discrete minima

$$E_n = E_0 \phi^n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad (50)$$

with degeneracies g_n . The canonical partition function is

$$Z(\beta) = \sum_n g_n \exp(-\beta E_n), \quad \beta = 1/(k_{\text{SST}} T), \quad (51)$$

which is a Mellin-like sum known to yield log-periodic corrections in thermodynamic derivatives [5]. Taking

$$C_V(T) = \frac{\partial}{\partial T} (T^2 \partial_T \ln Z)$$

produces oscillations with $\Delta \ln T = \ln \phi$, as in (39). This supports the fractal thermodynamics picture in the Golden Layer regime.

D Golden-ladder toy model for $Z(\beta)$ and $C_V(T)$

To make the fractal-thermodynamics picture of Sec. 4.1 explicit, we introduce a simple Golden ladder for the proton's internal excitation spectrum. We model a set of discrete levels

$$E_n = E_0 \phi^n, \quad n = n_{\min}, \dots, n_{\max}, \quad (52)$$

with constant degeneracies $g_n \equiv 1$ and $\phi = (1 + \sqrt{5})/2$. Here E_0 sets the overall scale. For a proton, a natural choice is to take E_0 of the order of the lowest inelastic nucleon excitation above the ground state, e.g.

$$E_0 \sim \Delta_p \equiv M_\Delta - M_p \sim \mathcal{O}(300 \text{ MeV}), \quad (53)$$

so that the internal Golden ladder lives in the same range as known baryon resonances.

For notational convenience we introduce a dimensionless temperature θ defined by

$$\theta \equiv \frac{k_{\text{SST}} T}{E_0}, \quad \beta = \frac{1}{k_{\text{SST}} T} = \frac{1}{E_0} \frac{1}{\theta}, \quad (54)$$

where k_{SST} is the Boltzmann analogue for the swirl medium (in a pure toy model one may simply take $k_{\text{SST}} = k_B$). In terms of θ the partition function reads

$$Z(\theta) = \sum_{n=n_{\min}}^{n_{\max}} g_n \exp\left[-\frac{E_n}{k_{\text{SST}} T}\right] = \sum_{n=n_{\min}}^{n_{\max}} \exp\left[-\frac{\phi^n}{\theta}\right]. \quad (55)$$

The internal energy is

$$U(\theta) = \frac{1}{Z(\theta)} \sum_{n=n_{\min}}^{n_{\max}} E_n \exp\left[-\frac{E_n}{k_{\text{SST}} T}\right] = E_0 \frac{\sum_n \phi^n \exp[-\phi^n/\theta]}{\sum_n \exp[-\phi^n/\theta]}. \quad (56)$$

It is often convenient to use the fluctuation formula for the heat capacity,

$$C_V(T) = \frac{\partial U}{\partial T} = k_{\text{SST}} \beta^2 (\langle E^2 \rangle - \langle E \rangle^2), \quad (57)$$

with

$$\langle E^m \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \sum_n E_n^m \exp(-\beta E_n) \quad (58)$$

$$= \frac{E_0^m}{Z} \sum_n \phi^{mn} \exp\left(-\frac{\phi^n}{\theta}\right). \quad (59)$$

Inserting Eq. (57) and the ladder (52) gives

$$C_V(T) = k_{\text{SST}} \left(\frac{E_0}{k_{\text{SST}} T} \right)^2 (\langle \phi^{2n} \rangle - \langle \phi^n \rangle^2), \quad (60)$$

where the averages $\langle \cdot \rangle$ are taken with respect to the Boltzmann weights $\exp[-\phi^n/\theta]$.

Numerical toy evaluation. For a concrete numerical model one may, for example, take $n_{\min} = -N$, $n_{\max} = +N$ with $N \sim 10\text{--}20$ and $g_n = 1$ for all n . Evaluating Eqs. (55)–(60) on a logarithmic grid of θ then produces a heat capacity $C_V(T)$ which is a smooth function of T with only mild oscillatory corrections when plotted as a function of $\ln T$. In other words, the Golden structure manifests itself as a small, log-periodic modulation on top of a broad background, consistent with the discrete scale invariance analysis of Ref. [5].

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