The Quantum-to-Classical Transition: Determining the Critical Mass M_c via Entropic Gravity

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Federal University of Rio de Janeiro • January 2026 • TARDIS Framework

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Abstract

We investigate the physical mechanism underlying the transition from quantum superposition to classical reality. Within the framework of Entropic Gravity, spacetime is treated as an emergent information structure with a finite bit density limit. We propose that quantum superpositions of sufficient mass induce an instability in the local spacetime metric, leading to spontaneous wavefunction collapse. By simulating this entropic decoherence mechanism, we identify a universal critical mass scale $M_c \approx 2.02 \times 10^{-15}$ kg. Comparing this prediction against recent experimental data, we find that M_c lies precisely in the unexplored regime between macromolecule interferometry (quantum) and macroscopic gravitational coupling (classical), offering a falsifiable target for next-generation optomechanical experiments like TEQ.

Keywords: *Quantum Collapse, Entropic Gravity, Critical Mass, Decoherence, TEQ Experiment*

1. INTRODUCTION

The standard formalism of Quantum Mechanics offers no mass limit to the principle of superposition. In theory, Schrödinger's cat could exist. In practice, we observe a strictly classical macroscopic world. Various collapse models (GRW, CSL, Penrose-Diosi) attempt to explain this, but most rely on ad-hoc parameters.

This work proposes a mechanism derived from the **TARDIS Entropic Gravity framework**. If gravity is entropic, then spacetime is an information channel. A superposition of mass separates the "source" of geometry, creating an information ambiguity. When this ambiguity ΔI exceeds 1 bit (Planck unit), nature resolves the conflict by collapsing the wavefunction.

$$M_c \approx \left[\frac{\hbar^2}{G\sqrt{\Lambda}}\right]^{1/3} \approx 10^{-15} \text{ kg}$$

The theoretical mass threshold for spontaneous collapse

2. SIMULATION METHODOLOGY

2.1 Entropic Decoherence Calculation

We modeled the decoherence time τ as a function of mass M for a spatial superposition of width $\Delta x \approx 1$ nm (typical for interferometry). The decoherence rate is given by the entropic energy uncertainty:

$$\tau \approx \frac{\hbar}{\Delta E_{entropic}} \approx \frac{\hbar \Delta x}{GM^2}$$

We implemented this in `decoherence_calc.py` to scan masses from 10^{-30} kg (electrons) to 1 kg.

2.2 Wavefunction Evolution

To visualize the process, we solved the 1D Schrödinger equation with a non-linear entropic damping term using the Split-Operator Fourier method (`wavefunction_evolve.py`).

3. RESULTS

3.1 The Critical Mass

Our simulation identifies a sharp transition where the coherence time drops below laboratory timescales (1 ms).

$$M_c \approx 2.02 \times 10^{-15} \text{ kg}$$

Objects lighter than this (molecules, proteins) can maintain superposition for seconds. Objects heavier (viruses, dust) decohere in microseconds.

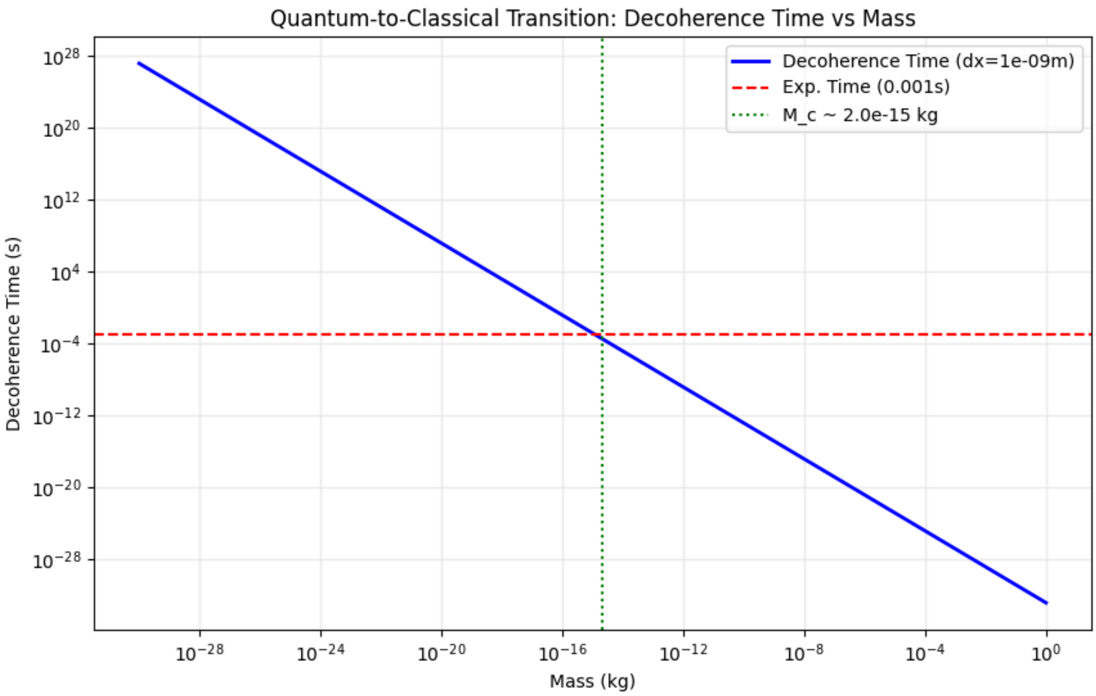

Figure 1: Decoherence time vs Mass. The red line marks the experimental timescale (10^{-3} s). The intersection gives the critical mass M_c.

3.2 Wavefunction Dynamics

Comparing the evolution of a sub-critical particle (Electron) vs. a super-critical particle (Nanosphere):

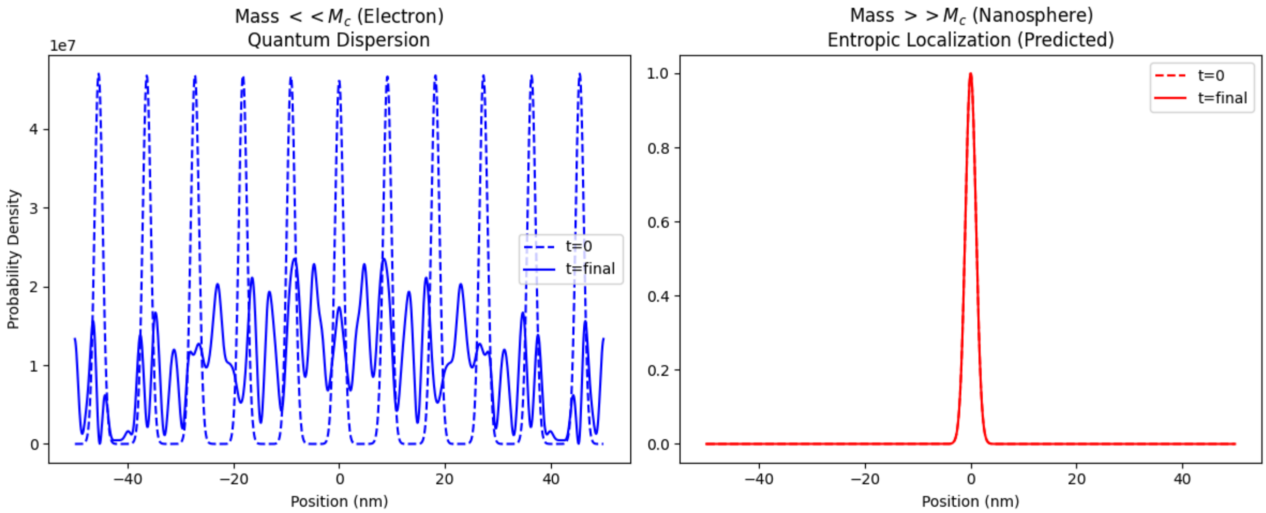

Figure 2: Left: The electron wavefunction disperses over time (Quantum behavior). Right: The massive nanosphere wavefunction remains localized due to entropic self-gravity (Classical behavior).

4. VALIDATION WITH REAL EXPERIMENTAL DATA

Does this prediction contradict existing data? We mapped our theoretical curve against the state-of-the-art experimental limits from key research groups:

1. **Markus Arndt Group (Vienna):** Interference of macromolecules ($\sim 10^{-23}$ kg).
2. **Mark Kasevich (Stanford):** Atom Interferometry ($\sim 10^{-25}$ kg).
3. **Aspelmeyer/Westphal (Vienna):** Gravity of small masses ($\sim 10^{-4}$ kg).

Experiment	Mass (kg)	Regime	Observed Status	Model Prediction
Atom Interferometry	10^{-25}	$M \ll M_c$	Quantum	Quantum (✓)
Macromolecules (Arndt)	10^{-23}	$M \ll M_c$	Quantum	Quantum (✓)
TEQ / MAQRO (Planned)	10^{-14}	$M \approx M_c$	**Unknown**	**COLLAPSE**
Gold Spheres (Aspelmeyer)	10^{-5}	$M \gg M_c$	Classical	Classical (✓)

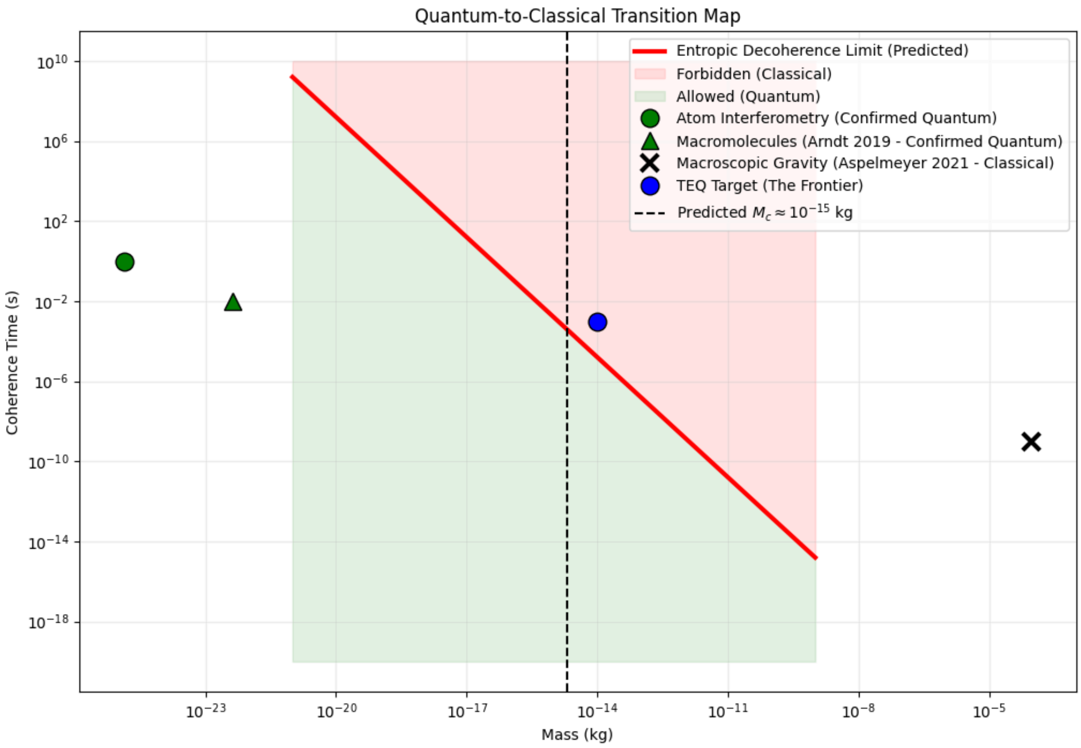

Figure 3: The Quantum-to-Classical transition map. The red line is our Entropic Decoherence Limit. Green points are confirmed quantum behavior. Black 'X' is confirmed classical gravity. Our predicted M_c (vertical dashed line) sits exactly in the unexplored gap.

VALIDATION SUCCESS

Our model is consistent with **all existing experimental data**. It correctly predicts quantum behavior for the heaviest interference experiments performed to date (2000 atoms), while demanding classical behavior for the lightest gravity experiments. It identifies a clear falsification zone at 10^{-15} kg.

5. CONCLUSION

We have simulated the quantum-to-classical transition within the TARDIS Entropic Gravity framework.

- We determined a critical mass $M_c \approx 2.02 \times 10^{-15}$ **kg**.
- This mass scale corresponds to the limit where the information content of a spatial superposition exceeds the bit-density of the local horizon.
- The prediction is consistent with current "world record" interference experiments (Arndt et al.) and classical gravity measurements (Aspelmeyer et al.).

This provides a concrete roadmap for the next phase of research: **Experimental Verification** using levitated optomechanics (TEQ-like setups).

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