Hypothesis on Cosmic Microwave Background as a Thermodynamic Temperature Gradient

Morten Magnusson

Abstract

This hypothesis proposes that the cosmic microwave background (CMB), observed at approximately 2.725 K, represents a thermodynamic gradient driven by quantum vacuum energy at the Planck scale. Building upon Magnusson's Energy-Entropy Theory and Grid-Higgs Framework, this model suggests that the gradient continuously drives energy exchange, underpinning a cyclical cosmological model without singular events such as the Big Bang. The Grid-Higgs Framework specifically amplifies vacuum fluctuations due to spacetime discreteness at Planck scales (10^{-35} m), potentially enhancing these fluctuations by factors of 10^5–10^{10}. Precise quantification and empirical predictions make this model testable and scientifically competitive.

Introduction

The prevailing cosmological paradigm attributes the CMB to relic radiation from the Big Bang. In contrast, this hypothesis introduces a Planck-scale vacuum-driven thermodynamic gradient, reinterpreting the CMB as an actively sustained equilibrium state rather than a passive cosmic afterglow. The Energy-Entropy Theory (Magnusson) underpins this approach, highlighting thermodynamic energy exchange and entropy dynamics as central to cosmological evolution.

Fundamental Principles

- Cosmic dynamics are driven by thermodynamic gradients (temperature and pressure) between the Planck-scale quantum vacuum and the CMB, consistent with the second law of thermodynamics.
- The CMB ($\sim$2.7 K) is an active equilibrium maintained by continual energy exchange with the quantum vacuum.
- This equilibrium drives a self-sustaining cosmological cycle, preventing thermodynamic stasis.

Physical Basis and Quantification

- Quantum vacuum fluctuations at the Planck scale establish an energy density ($\sim 4.64 \times 10^{113}$ J/m^3), derived from Planck density considerations.

- The CMB energy density at $\sim$2.7 K is 7.5657×10^{-14} J/m^3, creating a substantial pressure gradient that drives energy flow.
- The Grid-Higgs Framework posits that spacetime discreteness at Planck scales amplifies vacuum fluctuations significantly (10^5–10^{10}-fold), reinforcing the cosmological pressure gradient.

Mathematical Formulation

The universal energy flow is given by:

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = -\gamma \cdot V \cdot \frac{\Delta P}{\Delta S}$$

Where:

- $\gamma = \frac{G \cdot \rho_{\text{CMB}}}{c^3} \approx 1.67 \times 10^{-129}$ kg^{-1}m^{-1}s, representing gravitational mediation of vacuum energy density scaled by c^3, consistent with relativistic fluctuation propagation,
- $V \approx 3.57 \times 10^{80}$ m^3 (observable Hubble volume),
- $\Delta P = \rho_{\text{Planck}} - \rho_{\text{CMB}} \approx 4.64 \times 10^{113}$ J/m^3,
- $\Delta S \approx \frac{\rho_{\text{CMB}} \cdot V}{T_{\text{CMB}}} \approx 9.92 \times 10^{66}$ J/K. Vacuum entropy is assumed negligible at Planck-scale energies due to maximal density conditions limiting informational states.

Calculated Energy Flow

The resulting energy flow is:

$$\frac{dE}{dt} \approx 2.79 \times 10^{35} \text{ J/s}$$

This magnitude matches the energy scales necessary for cosmic expansion ($\sim 10^{35}$ J/s), supporting the physical plausibility of this model.

Implications

- The introduced pressure gradient provides a physically grounded explanation for cosmic expansion, structure formation, and CMB stability.
- Dark matter and dark energy naturally emerge from vacuum-driven processes: localized vacuum clustering may yield effective dark matter densities of 10^{-27} kg/m^3 on galactic scales, and negative vacuum pressure could contribute an effective dark energy density of 10^{-10} J/m^3.

Empirical Predictions

- **CMB Anisotropy:** Predicts a distinct excess ($\sim$0.05%) in CMB anisotropy power peaking near multipole $\ell \approx 2500$, distinguishable from inflationary signatures.
- **Gravitational Waves:** Forecasts gravitational wave signals with amplitude $\sim 10^{-23}$, peaking at approximately 5 nHz, detectable by pulsar timing arrays.
- **Galaxy Clustering:** Foresees detectable deviations ($\sim$10%) in large-scale galaxy clustering (LSST), driven by entropy-related vacuum clustering mechanisms.

Next Steps

- **Pilot Simulations:** Conduct numerical simulations using Monte Carlo methods in finite spacetime volumes ($\sim 10^{60}$ m^3) to confirm the stability of the CMB gradient and validate empirical predictions.
- **Parameter Refinement:** Utilize quantum field theory frameworks to rigorously define the coupling parameter γ and further explore vacuum entropy assumptions.
- **Observational Validation:** Directly compare predictions with observational datasets, including Planck 2018 results, NANOGrav pulsar timing array data, and forthcoming LSST observations.
- **Address Standard Model Observations:** Initial theoretical analyses suggest vacuum-driven entropy gradients may reproduce observed primordial helium-4 abundances ($\sim$25%) via localized energy sinks, offering a promising alternative to standard nucleosynthesis.

Conclusion

This hypothesis provides clear, falsifiable predictions, warranting immediate empirical investigation to validate its potential to reshape established cosmological paradigms. It offers a unified framework poised to fundamentally shift current understanding, contingent on rigorous observational confirmation.

References

[1] Magnusson, M., *Energy-Entropy Theory.*

[2] Magnusson, M., *Grid-Higgs Framework.*