

BLACK HOLE ENTROPY - IT'S PRETTY LARGE

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Post date: 18 Jan 2023.

The entropy of a solar mass black hole is given by

$$S = \frac{4\pi k_B G}{\hbar} M_\odot \quad (1)$$

How does this compare with the entropy of objects at 'normal' density and room temperature? In the latter case, the entropy is usually around $S_n = Nk_B$ where N is the number of particles making up the object. If we consider a solar mass black hole, and suppose that it is made up exclusively of ionized hydrogen (protons + electrons), we can get an estimate of the energy. The number of particles in such an object is

$$N = 2 \frac{M_\odot}{M_H} \quad (2)$$

where M_H is the mass of a hydrogen atom, and the factor of 2 accounts for 2 particles (electron + proton) per atom.

The ratio S/Nk_B is then

$$\frac{S}{Nk_B} = \frac{4\pi G M_\odot M_H}{2\hbar} \quad (3)$$

In GR units, this is a dimensionless quantity, since \hbar has dimensions of kg m and G has dimensions of m kg⁻¹. In GR units, the values are

$$\hbar = 3.5153 \times 10^{-43} \text{ kg m} \quad (4)$$

$$G = 7.426 \times 10^{-28} \text{ m kg}^{-1} \quad (5)$$

$$M_\odot = 1.989 \times 10^{30} \text{ kg} \quad (6)$$

$$M_H = 1.66 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg} \quad (7)$$

So we get

$$\frac{S}{Nk_B} = 4.38 \times 10^{19} \quad (8)$$

The entropy of a black hole is vastly more per particle than in 'normal' matter.