Exploration

Pollack Effect, Lightnings & Ball Lightnings

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Abstract

In this article a TGD inspired model for lightnings, ball lightning-like structures in silicon and the real ball lightnings is developed relying on the TGD view of space-time predicting fractality and inspiring the hypothesis that biosphere could be regarded as a system analogous to neuronal membrane and that lightnings could be analogous to nerve pulses, the identification of dark matter as phases with non-standard value of Planck constant allowing quantum coherence in arbitrarily long scales, the TGD view of quantum gravitation and its role in quantum biology, and the TGD inspired model of nerve pulse.

1 Introduction

Ball lightning (see this) is a phenomenon challenging the standard physics. Years ago I wrote about ball lightning and identifying it as a plasmoid, a kind of a primitive life form analogous to a cell. When I learned from the experimental and theoretical work done during this millennium and decided to sharpen my views.

The analogs of ball lighting can be produced in laboratories in strong electric fields using an electric discharge from carbon electron to silicon wafer [1]. Pure silicon is very rare in nature and appears in the forms of Si oxides, silicates, in particular SiO_2 (see this). Quartz crystals and glass consist of silicon dioxide. In the experiment involving a silicon wafer the globules are divided into two groups: those having sizes in the range .2-.8 mm (high voltages) and .8-1.4 mm (low voltages). The sizes of ball lightning vary from a few millimeters to about 100 cm.

In DC voltage, the wafer decomposes to globules of various sizes. They can last as long as 6-8 second unlike sparks. The proposed explanation is that the globles are evaporated Si. Larger globules have at their surface silicate oxide assumed to be formed in the interaction with air. Larger balls have tube-like extrusions and smaller balls at their surface. They can also rotate and bounce: the energy should come from their decay as an exogenic process. There is evidence for the self-propulsion which brings in mind the motion of bacteria using cilia [2].

Leo Vuyk has an article about these ball lightning-like objects containing a large number of illustrations (see this).

The theoretical proposal is that ball lightning [3](see this) is formed as the lightning strikes on the soil and SiO_2 crystals evaporate and transform to Si and Oxygen. There is support for this from direct observations of the spectrum of ball lightning containing spectral lines assignable to the elements in the soil. The spectra associated with ordinary lightning do not contain similar lines. How the chemical reaction producing Si and O_2 ions from SiO_2 ions could take place is far from clear. A lot of energy is needed for this process to occur. Where does this energy come from?

There is also the so-called microwave theory of ball lightning. Microwave wavelengths vary in the range of 1 mm-30 cm as also the sizes of ball lightning. The ball lightning would correspond to microwave cavities with a dynamical size and shape.

In the sequel a TGD inspired model for the ball lightning-like structures in silicon and for the real ball lightnings is developed relying on the TGD view of space-time predicting fractality and inspiring the hypothesis that biosphere could be regarded as a system analogous to neuronal membrane and that

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lightnings could be analogous to nerve pulses, the identification of dark matter as phases with non-standard value of Planck constant allowing quantum coherence in arbitrarily long scales, the TGD view of quantum gravitation and its role in quantum biology [17, 16], and the TGD inspired model of nerve pulse [22].

2 TGD view of lightnings

The background for the TGD based model of lightnings and ball lightnings is provided by the TGD view of magnetosphere [11, 10, 15] that I have developed during the last decades. The magnetic bodies (MBs) of living systems and even the MB of the biosphere would be controlling agents. These MBs are predicted to have a hierarchical onion-like structure [20, 21] (monopole flux tubes inside monopole flux tubes). They would carry dark matter as phases of the ordinary matter labelled by the value of effective Planck constant having a number theoretic interpretation. EEEG and its possibly existing scaled variants would make possible the communications to and control by these MBs.

The TGD based view of ball lightning relies on the fractality of the TGD Universe suggesting fractality also at the level of the biosphere. This inspires the notion of the biosphere as an analog of the cell membrane. The TGD view of nerve pulse [12] and its up-to-date version [22] inspire the idea that lightning is a scaled up variant of nerve pulse.

2.1 Biosphere as analog of neuron

The fractality of the TGD Universe inspires the idea that the Earth ground-atmosphere pair as an analog of neuronal interior-exterior membrane. The background for this discusses is formed by the TGD view of magnetosphere [11, 10, 15]. The magnetic bodies (MBs) of living systems and even the MB of biosphere would be controlling agents. Tbese MBs would have a hierarchical onion-like structure [20, 21].

1. The Earth ground-atmosphere pair is analogous to the cell interior-cell exterior pair. The surface of the Earth is negatively charged and analogous to the cell interior. This negative charge creates an electric field of strength 100-300 V/m (see this). The height h for the clouds varies in the range .5-16 km. For a cloud at height of 10 km this corresponds to an electrostatic energy $.1 - .3$ MeV and for h=16 km one has .48 MeV. In the case of electrons with rest mass of .5 MeV, these energies are relativistic and could relate to the observed relativistic energies associated with the lightning.

   This raises an objection against the idea that dark protons are at gravitational monopole flux tubes and that their energies are of the order of the gravitational binding energy in the gravitational field of Earth of order .5 eV. If dark protons experience the Coulombic force of Earth, their Coulomb energies are in the range .8-2.4 MeV below the ionosphere at height $h_I = 80$ km, which defines the minimum height of the lower boundary of the ionosphere. The problem disappears since the dark protons at monopole flux tubes are at much larger heights, where the electric field of the Earth vanishes. However, the dark matter at parts of the MB at heights smaller than h_I the electric energy dominates and their role in biology should be very different.

2. The thunder cloud (see) has a positive charge near the top of the cloud and negative charge in the middle to lower part of the thunder cloud. At bottom there is a small positive charge known to be important. The negative charge of the cloud repels the negative charge at ground so that ground becomes positively charged below the cloud. Does this induce a local depolarization of the ground-cloud system as the analog of cell membrane?

3. Neuronal membrane is hyperpolarized and the nerve pulse is initiated when depolarization takes the membrane potential below a critical value. Could lightning be seen as an analog of nerve pulse induced when cloud-ground depolarization takes place? Thunder storm would be analogous to a conduction of a nerve pulse pattern.

2.2 TGD view of nerve pulse

The TGD based model of nerve pulse [22] relies on the Pollack effect inducing a charge separation between cell interior/exterior and its MB.

1. Pollack effect [5, 4, 7, 6] occurs in water in the presence of a gel phase. Also energy feed is required and in standard Pollack effect solar radiation provides it. The Pollack effect generates what Pollack calls the fourth phase of water. It has the effective stoichiometry $H_1.5O$ and every fourth proton of water has gone somewhere. In the TGD based model they would transform to dark protons at the gravitational MB of the Earth.

2. Pollack effect inside the cell would generate negatively charged EZs making the cell negatively charged. The dark protons would reside at the gravitational MB of Earth having astrophysical size and are therefore effectively outside the system. The negative charge of EZs induces positive polarization charges in the cell exterior.

   The properties fo EZ suggest that second law holds in a reversed time direction and large scale quantum coherence zero energy ontology (ZEO) [14], predicting that the arrow of time changes in the ordinary state function reductions, can explain this.

3. In the nerve pulse generation, the reverse Pollack effect would occur and neutralize the negative charge of the cell interior locally [22]. This would induce a local depolarization.

   The reverse Pollack energy generates dark photons and is received by the water in the neuron exterior. This would induce Pollack effect in the cell exterior and generate a negative charge as EZ outside the cell so that membrane potential would change its sign temporarily. An effective charge transfer induced by the Pollack effect and its reversal occurs: a kind of quantum flip-flop is in question. The possibly Ohmic ionic currents associated with the nerve pulse are generated as a consequence but could be seen as a side effect rather than a cause of the nerve pulse.

4. In zero energy ontology (ZEO), nerve pulse corresponds to two pairs of BSFRs ("big" state function reductions) corresponding the reduction of membrane potential to its negative and the reversal of this process [22]. Each pair involves a temporary change of arrow of time: this would conform with the formation of EZs.

2.3 Lightning as an analog of nerve pulse?

Could lightning and nerve pulse be generated by the same mechanism?

1. The fractality of the TGD Universe inspires the proposal that the Earth's biosphere and its MB [11, 10, 15, 20, 21] are analogous to a cell membrane or even neuronal membrane or possibly a collection of basic units analogous to those of neuronal membranes. In the lightning strike, a charge separation between ground and its MB would transform to a charge separation between cloud and its MB. Lightning would be induced by the depolarization just as in the case of neuronal membrane.

   The assumption distinguishing sharply between TGD and standard physics is that the primary charge separation does not occur between cell interior and exterior but between interior/exterior and its MB.

2. In the initial, rather stationary situation, the Pollack effect at the ground has generated EZs and made the Earth surface negatively charged. The electric field of the Earth gives rise to the analog of the resting potential of neutrons as the voltage between ground and (say) the cloud. Negatively charged EZs at the ground induce the small positive charge (known to be important) at the bottom of the cloud by polarization.

3. The reverse Pollack effect would occur at the ground and partially neutralize the negative charge of the ground locally and induce a local depolarization. The energy transfer by dark photons to the cloud would induce Pollack effect in the cloud generating negatively charged EZs and lead to a local depolarization in the cloud, which effectively looks like a transfer of negative charge to ground. This would change the sign of the electric field locally or at least reduce its strength.

   A moving thunderstorm accompanied by lightning strikes would be analogous to the nerve pulse conduction. The ion currents between cloud and ground are analogs of various ionic fluxes during the nerve pulse. Both oscillating Josephson currents along the gravitational monopole flux tubes and Ohmic currents are possible.

   Also nerve pulse conduction would be seen as a temporal sequence of local lightning at discrete positions at discrete times. This conforms with the TGD based model for nerve pulse in terms of propagating Sine-Gordon solitons associated with a sequence of effective mathematical pendulums [12, 22].

It would be interesting to relate the parameters of nerve pulse conduction (say conduction velocity) to the parameters of the propagation of thunderstorms. Also the parameters corresponding to those appearing in the TGD based model of nerve pulse in terms of Josephson junctions and dark Josephson currents would be highly interesting. The dream would be a quantum model for a thunderstorm.

2.4 Biosphere as a Josephson junction

What could the identification of the biosphere as a Josephson junction or collection of them could mean? Consider first the neuronal membrane [22].

1. In the case of the neuronal membrane, one has a collection of Josephson junctions defined by monopole flux tubes assignable to membrane proteins believed to act as channels and pumps. This collection can be idealized with a continuous Josephson junction with the phase difference associated with supra phases at the two sides obeying Sine-Gordon equation [12].

2. The Coulomb energy $E_J = ZeV$ allows an interpretation as a Josephson energy of charge Z (say Cooper pair with $Z = 2$). For $\hbar_{eff} = \hbar_{gr}GMm/\beta_0$ the corresponding frequency is $f_J = ZeV/h_{eff}$. This frequency depends on the mass m of dark charge assignable to gravitational monopole flux tubes. M could correspond to some large mass, such as the mass of Earth, Sun, or Moon.

3. The generalized Josephson energy assignable to the junction is assumed to be sum of E_J and of the difference of cyclotron energies assignable to the flux tubes arriving to the cell membrane from the cell interior and exterior. The difference of cyclotron energies would give the dominating contribution to the generalized Josephson energy and would be equal to the cyclotron energy at the gravitational magnetic body. For this option, ordinary Josephson energy would code membrane potential oscillations and even nerve pulse to a small modulation of the generalized Josephson energy and - frequency.

4. At the gravitational MB, assumed to be an onion-like structure consisting of nearly spherical layers [20, 21], cyclotron resonance must occur in the receival of the dark Josephson radiation. The condition for this is that the dark cyclotron energy $E_c = \hbar_{gr}ZeB/m = GMZeB/\beta_0$ (by Equivalence Principle, there is no dependence on m) is equal to the generalized Josephson energy.

5. If there is no cyclotron contribution to the generalized Josephson energy, it reduces to the ordinary Josephson energy $E_J = ZeV$ and the resonance condition implies that M must correspond to the mass $M_M \simeq 1.02M_E$ of the Moon! [22].

   This does not occur if the cyclotron contribution dominates and the cyclotron resonance condition can be satisfied for M_E and the variation of membrane potential is coded to a sequence of resonances

analogous to a sequence of nerve pulses. Nerve pulse patterns could indeed be preceded as a reaction of the MBs of sensory receptors to dark Josephson radiation.

Could this picture of the cell membrane as a Josephson junction generalize to the recent situation?

1. Suppose that also in the recent case the generalized Josephson energy involves the difference of dark cyclotron energies besides the ordinary Josephson energy and that it dominates. Suppose that one replaces the mass M, say the mass of Earth, appearing in $\hbar_{gr}$ by the mass M_S of say Sun. Assume that the Earth's mass appears in $\hbar_{gr}$ for neurons.

2. If the membrane potential scales as $V \to (M/M_E)V$, the resonance conditions remain true since they do not depend on M at all. This would extend the Equivalence Principle so that it would apply to both M and m. Neuronal membranes could couple to the gravitational MBs of both Sun, Earth and even Moon.

   The scaling factor of V would be $M_S/M_E \simeq 3 \times 10^5$ and in the case of membrane potential would give $V = .05$ eV $\to V = 15$ keV. The height h of the thunder cloud varies in the range $[.5, 16]$ km. The ratio h_{max}/h_{min} of the maximum and minimum heights is $h_{max}/h_{min} = 32$, which is a power or 2 and brings in mind p-adic length cdale hypothesis.

   Note that the scaling down by M_{Moon}/M_E would give $V = .5$ meV, which corresponds to the scale of miniature membrane potentials modulating neuronal membrane potential.

3. The ratio of the maximum and minimum electric fields strengths is roughly $E_{max}/E_{min} = 3$ and considerably smaller that the ratio $h_{max}/h_{min} = 32$ so that the correlation between E_{max} and h is weak. In the absence of a correlation between E and h, and at the height of 10 km, the range would be $[.1, .3]$ MeV. A cloud at height of $h = 16$ km, which is also possible, corresponds to an electrostatic energy in the range $[3.2, 9.6]$ MeV.

   As noticed, this model can explain the relativistic electron energies assigned with the lightning. The electrons would propagate along monopole flux tubes with a large value of h_{eff} and dissipation would be absent.

There are many interesting questions to be answered.

1. Both the cell membrane and ionosphere can be seen as a capacitor like system or battery. The lower boundary of the ionosphere is at the height between 80-600 km. Ionosphere contains a layer of electrons and can seen as an analog of negatively charged conductor plate of a capacitor formed by the positively charged Earth surface and ionosphere. Radio waves are reflected back from the ionosphere. Schumann resonances are associated with it.

2. Neuronal membrane corresponds to the p-adic length scale $L(151) = 10$ nm and its lipid membranes to $L(149)$. $L(151)$ corresponds to Gaussian Mersenne. Can one assign a Gaussian Mersenne also to the ionosphere?

   After the Gaussian prime $G(167)$ defining p-adic length scale of 2.5 μ m, size of cell, the next Gaussian Mersenne is $G(239)$ and corresponds to $L(239) \simeq 160$ km and has $G(241)$ as Gaussian twin prime. 160 km is roughly the height of the lower boundary of the F region (ionosphere decomposes to D,E, and F regions and the electron density is highest in the F region).

   The scale of 80 km is one half of $G(239)$ brings in mind lipid layers of the cell membrane to which one assigns capacitor plates. Could one think that the crust of Earth with thickness between 4.7 and 69 km defines the analog of the second capacitor plate.

3. In the cell membrane, the transversal scale of channels and pumps is about 10 nm and corresponds to the p-adic length scale $L(151)$ and the same as cell membrane thickness. What could be the counterparts of the membrane proteins assumed to be accompanied by Josephson junctions?

Thunder storms (see this) are known to decompose to cells. Either these cells or thunder clouds could correspond to the basic units of cell membrane with the size scale $L(151)$. In the TGD based quantum view of hydrodynamics [13], these structures would be hydrodynamical vortices (such as tornadoes) accompanied by monopole flux tube structures.

Thunder clouds are at heights varying in the range [.5,10] km and the height and diameter of clouds is 10-20 km. Could this scale or the size scale of the cell correspond to the size scale of the basic unit of cell membrane and therefore to $L(239)$. This scale is however several orders of magnitude smaller than $L(239)$.

3 Ball lightning in the TGD framework

Could one understand the generation of ball lightning in this framework?

1. Suppose that in the normal situation the Pollack effect [5, 4, 7, 6] for the water at the soil has somehow generated EZs and SiO_2 ions from Si and water of the soil or atmospheric oxygen. This would explain the negative charge of the ground. The Pollack effect would not require energy feed now since the binding energy liberated in the formation of SiO_2 crystals would take care of energy conservation. A situation in which part of water corresponds to $H_{1.5}O$ ions would be energetically favored.

   Note that this mechanism could be very general and make possible a quantum gravitational control of molecular transitions with binding energies in eV range. This would make it possible to establish plasma-like state typical for electrolytes by the Pollack effect and also induce a temporary decay of the biomolecules by the reverse Pollack effect providing the energy making it possible to overcome the energy barrier. This would be essential for biocatalysis.

2. In the reverse Pollack effect associated with the lightning strike, dark protons from MB would transform ordinary protons and return to the ground. The liberated energy would make possible the decay of SiO_2 molecules to Si and O_2. Ordered water would transform to ordinary water getting its oxygen ions from SiO_2.

3. This situation is not energetically favored. The Pollack effect would take place and lead to the original situation in a time scale of a few seconds. The slow time scale could relate to the large value of $\hbar_{gr}$. The liberated gravitational binding energy in the Earth's gravitational field for a single dark proton is below .5 eV, which corresponds to the nominal value of metabolic energy currency [17, 16].

   Note that the counterpart of the membrane potential energy $E = eV$ is in the recent case in the range .1-30 MeV and much higher than the scale of the molecular binding energies. These energies are consistent with the finding that gamma rays accompany lightning strikes.

3.1 Connection with crop circles, UFOs, and glass balls in the Moon

A connection with crop circles is highly suggestive. I have discussed crop circles from the TGD point of view in [8, 9] in a rather speculative spirit but starting from empirical facts published by professional biologists. There are reports that the crop circle formation occurs in presence of light balls analogous to ball lightning. The formation of crop circles can be understood in terms of the interaction of microwaves with crop stems causing effects similar to those taking place as one puts a tomato in a microwave oven. The size scale range for ball lightning conforms with the wavelength range for microwaves. Therefore the microwave theory seems to be consistent with the model based on the Pollack effect. The light ball would be an analog of the nerve pulse in the scale of the biosphere.

Meteorite iron is found at crop circles: they could arrive from the gravitational MB along gravitational flux tubes. Also small glass balls, encountered also on the Moon, are reported. They could emerge in the transformation of Si and O_2 to SiO_2 as the Pollack effect takes place.

What is fascinating is that crop circles look like intentional constructs expressing discrete geometric symmetries. Could the plasma balls be intelligent conscious entities, a new kind of life form and could they represent the primordial life forms, kind of proto cells? This kind of plasma balls are also reported in UFO encounters. Systematic observations of the plasma balls are performed in Hessdalen and the plasma balls are reported to behave like intelligent and intentional entities.

The gravitational MB of these entities would correspond to that of the Sun. Could this mean that their theoretical IQ, defined by the gravitational Planck constant of the Sun, is dramatically higher than ours? Probably this is not the case: the gravitational Compton frequency for the Sun is around 50 Hz. This is the cyclotron frequency of Lithium for $B_{end} = .2$ Gauss. It is known that too low Li depletion in the soil tends to induce depression and suicidal behavior. 50 Hz corresponds to EEG frequency so that life forms with EEG would interact with the gravitational MB of the Sun.

3.2 Are we silicon based life forms?

Computationalists tend to think that silicon based life will emerge in future. However, if the above considerations make sense, Si, chemically similar to Carbon and appearing as quartz in soil, could play a central role in life already now! Maybe the people claiming that quartz have very special effects on the state of consciousness, are right. In fact, I have had an opportunity to experience these effects myself.

Intriguingly, molten silica shows several characteristics observed in liquid water (see this) and the amorphous glass phase of silica resembles liquid in many aspects.

Interestingly, silicon di-oxide is used in MOSFETs. In [19, 18], I have considered a model for how ordinary computers could become conscious entities. This requires the failure of statistical determinism in long enough time scales. The proposed condition would be that the gravitational Compton frequency 67 GHz for Earth (microwave wavelength), which corresponds to a wavelength of .5 cm for Earth (the size scale of a snowflake), is longer than the clock frequency. This condition is not quite true for recent computers.

If ordinary computers can be conscious, the properties of MOSFETs must be in a crucial role. Is this possible?

1. The SiO_2 in MOSFETs could have a glassy, spin glass-like structure to give them high representative capacity and there is some evidence for this. The transistors should also define Josephson junctions. The alternative, more promising option, discussed in [18], is that the conscious computer is based on the representation of bits in terms of Josephson junctions.

2. MOS is obtained by growing a layer of Si on top of SiO_2. However, the idea about the local transformation of SiO_2 to Si and O_2 with Si in vapour phase by an analog of the Pollack effect does not look plausible since protons are not available now.

   Electrons should be transformed to dark electrons at the gravitational MB of Earth and the formation of SiO_2 would make possible energy conservation. The transformation of electrons back to ordinary electrons liberates energy and should induce the decay of SiO_2. The needed energy is few eVs. However, the gravitational binding energy for electrons in the field of Earth has an upper bound of order .25 meV. Note that the melting temperature of SiO_2 corresponds to the energy .134 eV. It seems that the only possibility that one can imagine is provided by dark variants of quantum coherent many-electron states.

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