

What Could Be the Origin of Preferred p-Adic Primes and p-Adic Length Scale Hypothesis?

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Abstract

p-Adic mass calculations allow to conclude that elementary particles correspond to one or possibly several preferred primes assigning p-adic effective topology to the real space-time sheets in discretization in some length scale range. TGD inspired theory of consciousness leads to the identification of p-adic physics as physics of cognition. The recent progress leads to the proposal that quantum TGD is adelic: all p-adic number fields are involved and each gives one particular view about physics.

Adelic approach plus the view about evolution as emergence of increasingly complex extensions of rationals leads to a possible answer to the question of the title. The algebraic extensions of rationals are characterized by preferred rational primes, namely those which are ramified when expressed in terms of the primes of the extensions. These primes would be natural candidates for preferred p-adic primes. An argument relying on what I call weak form of NMP in turn allows to understand why primes near powers of 2 are preferred: as a matter of fact, also primes near powers of other primes are predicted to be favoured.

1 Earlier attempts to understand the origin of preferred p-adic primes

p-Adic mass calculations [K7] allow to conclude that elementary particles correspond to one or possible several preferred primes assigning p-adic effective topology to the real space-time sheets in discretization in some length scale range. TGD inspired theory of consciousness leads to the identification of p-adic physics as physics of cognition. The recent progress leads to the proposal that quantum TGD is adelic: all p-adic number fields are involved and each gives one particular view about physics.

Adelic approach [?, K6] plus the view about evolution as emergence of increasingly complex extensions of rationals leads to a possible answer to the question of the title. The algebraic extensions of rationals are characterized by preferred rational primes, namely those which are ramified when expressed in terms of the primes of the extensions. These primes would be natural candidates for preferred p-adic primes.

How the preferred primes emerge in TGD framework? I have made several attempts to answer this question. As a matter of fact, the question has been slightly different: what determines the p-adic prime assigned to elementary particle by p-adic mass calculations [K1]. The recent view assigns to particle entire adèle but some p-adic number fields in it are different.

1. Classical non-determinism at space-time level for real space-time sheets could in some length scale range involving rational discretization for space-time surface itself or for parameters characterizing it as a preferred extremal correspond to the non-determinism of p-adic differential equations due to the presence of pseudo constants which have vanishing p-adic derivative. Pseudo-constants are functions depend on finite number of binary digits of its arguments.
2. The quantum criticality of TGD [K8] is suggested to be realized in terms of infinite hierarchies of super-symplectic symmetry breakings in the sense that only a sub-algebra with conformal weights which are n -multiples of those for the entire algebra act as conformal gauge symmetries. This might be true for all conformal algebras involved. One has fractal hierarchy since the sub-algebras in question are isomorphic: only the scale of conformal gauge symmetry increases in the phase transition increasing n . The hierarchies correspond to sequences of integers $n(i)$ such that $n(i)$ divides $n(i+1)$. These hierarchies would very naturally correspond to hierarchies of inclusions of hyper-finite factors and $m(i) = n(i+1)/n(i)$ could correspond to the integer n characterizing the index of inclusion, which has value $n \geq 3$. Possible problem is that $m(i) = 2$ would not correspond to Jones inclusion. Why the scaling by power of two would be different? The natural question is whether the primes dividing $n(i)$ or $m(i)$ could define the preferred primes.
3. Negentropic entanglement corresponds to entanglement for which density matrix is projector [K2]. For n -dimensional projector any prime p dividing n gives rise to negentropic entanglement in the sense that the number theoretic entanglement entropy defined by Shannon formula by replacing p_i in $\log(p_i) = \log(1/n)$ by its p-adic norm $N_p(1/n)$ is negative if p divides n and

maximal for the prime for which the dividing power of prime is largest power-of-prime factor of n . The identification of p-adic primes as factors of n is highly attractive idea. The obvious question is whether n corresponds to the integer characterizing a level in the hierarchy of conformal symmetry breakings.

4. The adelic picture about TGD led to the question whether the notion of unitary could be generalized. S-matrix would be unitary in adelic sense in the sense that $P_m = (SS^\dagger)_{mm} = 1$ would generalize to adelic context so that one would have product of real norm and p-adic norms of P_m . In the intersection of the realities and p-adicities P_m for reals would be rational and if real and p-adic P_m correspond to the same rational, the condition would be satisfied. The condition that $P_m \leq 1$ seems however natural and forces separate unitary in each sector so that this options seems too tricky.

These are the basic ideas that I have discussed hitherto.

2 What makes some primes preferred and why preferred primes would be predicted by p-adic length scale hypothesis?

The following arguments suggest that purely number theoretical reasons imply the emergence of preferred p-adic primes as ramified primes for the extensions of rationals. What I call weak form of Negentropy Maximization Principle (NMP) in turn suggests that preferred p-adic primes correspond to those predicted by generalization of p-adic length scale hypothesis.

2.1 Could preferred primes characterize algebraic extensions of rationals?

The intuitive feeling is that the notion of preferred prime is something extremely deep and the deepest thing I know is number theory. Does one end up with preferred primes in number theory? This question brought to my mind the notion of ramification of primes ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramification_\(mathematics\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramification_(mathematics))) (more precisely, of prime ideals of number field in its extension), which happens only for special primes in a given extension of number field, say rationals. Could this be the mechanism assigning preferred prime(s) to a given elementary system, such as elementary particle? I have not considered their role earlier also their hierarchy is highly relevant in the number theoretical vision about TGD.

1. Stating it very roughly (I hope that mathematicians tolerate this language): As one goes from number field K , say rationals Q , to its algebraic extension L , the original prime ideals in the so called integral closure (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Integral_element) over integers of K decompose to products of prime ideals of L (prime is a more rigorous manner to express primeness).

Integral closure for integers of number field K is defined as the set of elements of K , which are roots of some monic polynomial with coefficients, which are

integers of K and having the form $x^n + a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + \dots + a_0$. The integral closures of both K and L are considered. For instance, integral closure of algebraic extension of K over K is the extension itself. The integral closure of complex numbers over ordinary integers is the set of algebraic numbers.

2. There are two further basic notions related to ramification and characterizing it. Relative discriminant is the ideal divided by all ramified ideals in K and relative different is the ideal of L divided by all ramified P_i 's. Note that the general ideal is analog of integer and these ideals represent the analogous of product of preferred primes P of K and primes P_i of L dividing them.
3. A physical analogy is provided by decomposition of hadrons to valence quarks. Elementary particles become composite of more elementary particles in the extension. The decomposition to these more elementary primes is of form $P = \prod P_i^{e(i)}$, where e_i is the ramification index - the physical analog would be the number of elementary particles of type i in the state (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Splitting_of_prime_ideals_in_Galois_extensions). Could the ramified rational primes could define the physically preferred primes for a given elementary system?

In TGD framework the extensions of rationals (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Splitting_of_prime_ideals_in_Galois_extensions) and p-adic number fields (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finite_extensions_of_local_fields) are unavoidable and interpreted as an evolutionary hierarchy physically and cosmological evolution would have gradually proceeded to more and more complex extensions. One can say that string world sheets and partonic 2-surfaces with parameters of defining functions in increasingly complex extensions of prime emerge during evolution. Therefore ramifications and the preferred primes defined by them are unavoidable. For p-adic number fields the number of extensions is much smaller for instance for $p > 2$ there are only 3 quadratic extensions.

1. In p-adic context a proper definition of counterparts of angle variables as phases allowing definition of the analogs of trigonometric functions requires the introduction of algebraic extension giving rise to some roots of unity. Their number depends on the angular resolution. These roots allow to define the counterparts of ordinary trigonometric functions - the naive generalization based on Taylor's series is not periodic - and also allows to define the counterpart of definite integral in these degrees of freedom as discrete Fourier analysis. For the simplest algebraic extensions defined by $x^n - 1$ for which Galois group is abelian are unramified so that something else is needed. One has decomposition $P = \prod P_i^{e(i)}$, $e(i) = 1$, analogous to n -fermion state so that simplest cyclic extension does not give rise to a ramification and there are no preferred primes.
2. What kind of polynomials could define preferred algebraic extensions of rationals? Irreducible polynomials are certainly an attractive candidate since any polynomial reduces to a product of them. One can say that they define the elementary particles of number theory. Irreducible polynomials have integer

coefficients having the property that they do not decompose to products of polynomials with rational coefficients. It would be wrong to say that only these algebraic extensions can appear but there is a temptation to say that one can reduce the study of extensions to their study. One can even consider the possibility that string world sheets associated with products of irreducible polynomials are unstable against decay to those characterize irreducible polynomials.

3. What can one say about irreducible polynomials? Eisenstein criterion states following. If $Q(x) = \sum_{k=0, \dots, n} a_k x^k$ is n :th order polynomial with integer coefficients and with the property that there exists at least one prime dividing all coefficients a_i except a_n and that p^2 does not divide a_0 , then Q is irreducible. Thus one can assign one or more preferred primes to the algebraic extension defined by an irreducible polynomial Q of this kind - in fact any polynomial allowing ramification. There are also other kinds of irreducible polynomials since Eisenstein's condition is only sufficient but not necessary.
4. Furthermore, in the algebraic extension defined by Q , the prime ideals P having the above mentioned characteristic property decompose to an n :th power of single prime ideal P_i : $P = P_i^n$. The primes are maximally/completely ramified. The physical analog $P = P_0^n$ is Bose-Einstein condensate of n bosons. There is a strong temptation to identify the preferred primes of irreducible polynomials as preferred p-adic primes.

A good illustration is provided by equations $x^2 + 1 = 0$ allowing roots $x_{\pm} = \pm i$ and equation $x^2 + 2px + p = 0$ allowing roots $x_{\pm} = -p \pm \sqrt{p}p - 1$. In the first case the ideals associated with $\pm i$ are different. In the second case these ideals are one and the same since $x_+ = -x_- + p$: hence one indeed has ramification. Note that the first example represents also an example of irreducible polynomial, which does not satisfy Eisenstein criterion. In more general case the n conditions on defined by symmetric functions of roots imply that the ideals are one and same when Eisenstein conditions are satisfied.

5. What does this mean in p-adic context? The identity of the ideals can be stated by saying $P = P_0^n$ for the ideals defined by the primes satisfying the Eisenstein condition. Very loosely one can say that the algebraic extension defined by the root involves n :th root of p-adic prime p . This does not work! Extension would have a number whose n :th power is zero modulo p . On the other hand, the p-adic numbers of the extension modulo p should be finite field but this would not be field anymore since there would exist a number whose n :th power vanishes. The algebraic extension simply does not exist for preferred primes. The physical meaning of this will be considered later.
6. What is so nice that one could readily construct polynomials giving rise to given preferred primes. The complex roots of these polynomials could correspond to the points of partonic 2-surfaces carrying fermions and defining the ends of boundaries of string world sheet. It must be however emphasized that the form of the polynomial depends on the choices of the complex coordinate. For instance, the shift $x \rightarrow x + 1$ transforms $(x^n - 1)/(x - 1)$ to a polynomial

satisfying the Eisenstein criterion. One should be able to fix allowed coordinate changes in such a manner that the extension remains irreducible for all allowed coordinate changes.

Already the integral shift of the complex coordinate affects the situation. It would seem that only the action of the allowed coordinate changes must reduce to the action of Galois group permuting the roots of polynomials. A natural assumption is that the complex coordinate corresponds to a complex coordinate transforming linearly under subgroup of isometries of the imbedding space.

In the general situation one has $P = \prod P_i^{e(i)}$, $e(i) \geq 1$ so that also now there are preferred primes so that the appearance of preferred primes is completely general phenomenon.

2.2 What could be the origin of p-adic length scale hypothesis?

The argument would explain the existence of preferred p-adic primes. It does not yet explain p-adic length scale hypothesis [K3, K1] stating that p-adic primes near powers of 2 are favored. A possible generalization of this hypothesis is that primes near powers of prime are favored. There indeed exists evidence for the realization of 3-adic time scale hierarchies in living matter [I1] (http://byebyedarwin.blogspot.fi/p/english-version_01.html) and in music both 2-adicity and 3-adicity could be present, this is discussed in TGD inspired theory of music harmony and genetic code [K4].

The weak form of NMP might come in rescue here.

1. Entanglement negentropy for a negentropic entanglement [K2] characterized by n -dimensional projection operator is the $\log(N_p(n))$ for some p whose power divides n . The maximum negentropy is obtained if the power of p is the largest power of prime divisor of n , and this can be taken as definition of number theoretic entanglement negentropy. If the largest divisor is p^k , one has $N = k \times \log(p)$. The entanglement negentropy per entangled state is $N/n = k \log(p)/n$ and is maximal for $n = p^k$. Hence powers of prime are favoured which means that p-adic length scale hierarchies with scales coming as powers of p are negentropically favored and should be generated by NMP. Note that $n = p^k$ would define a hierarchy of $h_{eff}/h = p^k$. During the first years of h_{eff} hypothesis I believe that the preferred values obey $h_{eff} = r^k$, r integer not far from $r = 2^{11}$. It seems that this belief was not totally wrong.
2. If one accepts this argument, the remaining challenge is to explain why primes near powers of two (or more generally p) are favoured. $n = 2^k$ gives large entanglement negentropy for the final state. Why primes $p = n_2 = 2^k - r$ would be favored? The reason could be following. $n = 2^k$ corresponds to $p = 2$, which corresponds to the lowest level in p-adic evolution since it is the simplest p-adic topology and farthest from the real topology and therefore gives the poorest cognitive representation of real preferred extremal as p-adic preferred external (Note that $p = 1$ makes formally sense but for it the topology is discrete).

3. Weak form of NMP suggests a more convincing explanation. The density matrix of the state to be reduced is a direct sum over contributions proportional to projection operators. Suppose that the projection operator with largest dimension has dimension n . Strong form of NMP would say that final state is characterized by n -dimensional projection operator. Weak form of NMP allows free will so that all dimensions $n - k$, $k = 0, 1, \dots, n - 1$ for final state projection operator are possible. 1-dimensional case corresponds to vanishing entanglement negentropy and ordinary state function reduction isolating the measured system from external world.
4. The negentropy of the final state per state depends on the value of k . It is maximal if $n - k$ is power of prime. For $n = 2^k = M_k + 1$, where M_k is Mersenne prime $n - 1$ gives the maximum negentropy and also maximal p-adic prime available so that this reduction is favoured by NMP. Mersenne primes would be indeed special. Also the primes $n = 2^k - r$ near 2^k produce large entanglement negentropy and would be favored by NMP.
5. This argument suggests a generalization of p-adic length scale hypothesis so that $p = 2$ can be replaced by any prime.

This argument together with the hypothesis that preferred prime is ramified would correlate the character of the irreducible extension and character of super-conformal symmetry breaking. The integer n characterizing super-symplectic conformal sub-algebra acting as gauge algebra would depend on the irreducible algebraic extension of rationals involved so that the hierarchy of quantum criticalities would have number theoretical characterization. Ramified primes could appear as divisors of n and n would be essentially a characteristic of ramification known as discriminant. An interesting question is whether only the ramified primes allow the continuation of string world sheet and partonic 2-surface to a 4-D space-time surface. If this is the case, the assumptions behind p-adic mass calculations would have full first principle justification.

3 Possible connections

Connections with Langlands program and notion of infinite prime are highly suggestive. The connection infinite primes also suggests a generalization of Langlands program.

3.1 A connection with Langlands program?

In Langlands program (<http://arxiv.org/abs/hep-th/0512172>, Recent Advances in Langlands [A3, A2]) the great vision is that the n -dimensional representations of Galois groups G characterizing algebraic extensions of rationals or more general number fields define n -dimensional adelic representations of adelic Lie groups, in particular the adelic linear group $GL(n, A)$. This would mean that it is possible to reduce these representations to a number theory for adeles. This would be highly relevant in the vision about TGD as a generalized number theory. I have speculated with

this possibility earlier (http://tgdtheory.fi/public_html/tgdnumber/tgdeeg/tgdnumber.html#Langlandia) [?] but the mathematics is so horribly abstract that it takes decade before one can have even hope of building a rough vision.

One can wonder whether the irreducible polynomials could define the preferred extensions K of rationals such that the maximal abelian extensions of the fields K would in turn define the adeles utilized in Langlands program. At least one might hope that everything reduces to the maximally ramified extensions.

At the level of TGD string world sheets with parameters in an extension defined by an irreducible polynomial would define an adele containing various p-adic number fields defined by the primes of the extension. This would define a hierarchy in which the prime ideals of previous level would decompose to those of the higher level. Each irreducible extension of rationals would correspond to some physically preferred p-adic primes.

It should be possible to tell what the preferred character means in terms of the adelic representations. What happens for these representations of Galois group in this case? This is known.

1. For Galois extensions ramification indices are constant: $e(i) = e$ and Galois group acts transitively on ideals P_i dividing P . One obtains an n -dimensional representation of Galois group. Same applies to the subgroup of Galois group G/I where I is subgroup of G leaving P_i invariant. This group is called inertia group. For the maximally ramified case G maps the ideal P_0 in $P = P_0^n$ to itself so that $G = I$ and the action of Galois group is trivial taking P_0 to itself, and one obtains singlet representations.
2. The trivial action of Galois group looks like a technical problem for Langlands program and also for TGD unless the singletness of P_i under G has some physical interpretation. One possibility is that Galois group acts as like a gauge group and here the hierarchy of sub-algebras of super-symplectic algebra labelled by integers n is highly suggestive. This raises obvious questions. Could the integer n characterizing the sub-algebra of super-symplectic algebra acting as conformal gauge transformations, define the integer defined by the product of ramified primes? P_0^n brings in mind the n conformal equivalence classes which remain invariant under the conformal transformations acting as gauge transformations. . Recalling that relative discriminant is an of K ideal divisible by ramified prime ideals of K , this means that n would correspond to the relative discriminant for $K = Q$. Are the preferred primes those which are “physical” in the sense that one can assign to the states satisfying conformal gauge conditions?

If the Galois group corresponds to gauge symmetries for these primes, it is physically natural that the p-adic algebraic extension does not exist and that p-adic variant of the Galois group is absent. Nothing is lost from cognition since there is nothing to cognize!

3.2 A connection with infinite primes?

Infinite primes are one of the mathematical outcomes of TGD [K5]. There are two kinds of infinite primes. There are the analogs of free many particle states

consisting of fermions and bosons labelled by primes of the previous level in the hierarchy. They correspond to states of a supersymmetric arithmetic quantum field theory or actually a hierarchy of them obtained by a repeated second quantization of this theory. A connection between infinite primes representing bound states and irreducible polynomials is highly suggestive.

1. The infinite prime representing free many-particle state decomposes to a sum of infinite part and finite part having no common finite prime divisors so that prime is obtained. The infinite part is obtained from “fermionic vacuum” $X = \prod_k p_k$ by dividing away some fermionic primes p_i and adding their product so that one has $X \rightarrow X/m + m$, where m is square free integer. Also $m = 1$ is allowed and is analogous to fermionic vacuum interpreted as Dirac sea without holes. X is infinite prime and pure many-fermion state physically. One can add bosons by multiplying X with any integers having no common denominators with m and its prime decomposition defines the bosonic contents of the state. One can also multiply m by any integers whose prime factors are prime factors of m .
2. There are also infinite primes, which are analogs of bound states and at the lowest level of the hierarchy they correspond to irreducible polynomials $P(x)$ with integer coefficients. At the second levels the bound states would naturally correspond to irreducible polynomials $P_n(x)$ with coefficients $Q_k(y)$, which are infinite integers at the previous level of the hierarchy.
3. What is remarkable that bound state infinite primes at given level of hierarchy would define maximally ramified algebraic extensions at previous level. One indeed has infinite hierarchy of infinite primes since the infinite primes at given level are infinite primes in the sense that they are not divisible by the primes of the previous level. The formal construction works as such. Infinite primes correspond to polynomials of single variable at the first level, polynomials of two variables at second level, and so on. Could the Langlands program could be generalized from the extensions of rationals to polynomials of complex argument and that one would obtain infinite hierarchy?
4. Infinite integers in turn could correspond to products of irreducible polynomials defining more general extensions. This raises the conjecture that infinite primes for an extension K of rationals could code for the algebraic extensions of K quite generally. If infinite primes correspond to real quantum states they would thus correspond the extensions of rationals to which the parameters appearing in the functions defining partonic 2-surfaces and string world sheets.

This would support the view that partonic 2-surfaces associated with algebraic extensions defined by infinite integers and thus not irreducible are unstable against decay to partonic 2-surfaces which corresponds to extensions assignable to infinite primes. Infinite composite integer defining intermediate unstable state would decay to its composites. Basic particle physics phenomenology would have number theoretic analog and even more.

5. According to Wikipedia, Eisenstein's criterion (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eisenstein's_criterion) allows generalization and what comes in mind is that it applies in exactly the same form also at the higher levels of the hierarchy. Primes would be only replaced with prime polynomials and there would be at least one prime polynomial $Q(y)$ dividing the coefficients of $P_n(x)$ except the highest one such that its square would not divide P_0 . Infinite primes would give rise to an infinite hierarchy of functions of many complex variables. At first level zeros of function would give discrete points at partonic 2-surface. At second level one would obtain 2-D surface: partonic 2-surfaces or string world sheet. At the next level one would obtain 4-D surfaces. What about higher levels? Does one obtain higher dimensional objects or something else. The union of n 2-surfaces can be interpreted also as $2n$ -dimensional surface and one could think that the hierarchy describes a hierarchy of unions of correlated partonic 2-surfaces. The correlation would be due to the preferred extremal property of Kähler action.

One can ask whether this hierarchy could allow to generalize number theoretical Langlands to the case of function fields using the notion of prime function assignable to infinite prime. What this hierarchy of polynomials of arbitrary many complex arguments means physically is unclear. Do these polynomials describe many-particle states consisting of partonic 2-surface such that there is a correlation between them as sub-manifolds of the same space-time sheet representing a preferred extremals of Kähler action?

This would suggest strongly the generalization of the notion of p-adicity so that it applies to infinite primes.

1. This looks sensible and maybe even practical! Infinite primes can be mapped to prime polynomials so that the generalized p-adic numbers would be power series in prime polynomial - Taylor expansion in the coordinate variable defined by the infinite prime. Note that infinite primes (irreducible polynomials) would give rise to a hierarchy of preferred coordinate variables. In terms of infinite primes this expansion would require that coefficients are smaller than the infinite prime P used. Are the coefficients lower level primes? Or also infinite integers at the same level smaller than the infinite prime in question? This criterion makes sense since one can calculate the ratios of infinite primes as real numbers.
2. I would guess that the definition of infinite-P p-adicity is not a problem since mathematicians have generalized the number theoretical notions to such a level of abstraction much above of a layman like me. The basic question is how to define p-adic norm for the infinite primes (infinite only in real sense, p-adically they have unit norm for all lower level primes) so that it is finite.
3. There exists an extremely general definition of generalized p-adic number fields (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/P-adic_number). One considers Dedekind domain D , which is a generalization of integers for ordinary number field having the property that ideals factorize uniquely to prime ideals.

Now D would contain infinite integers. One introduces the field E of fractions consisting of infinite rationals.

Consider element e of E and a general fractional ideal eD as counterpart of ordinary rational and decompose it to a ratio of products of powers of ideals defined by prime ideals, now those defined by infinite primes. The general expression for the p -adic norm of x is $x^{-ord(P)}$, where n defines the total number of ideals P appearing in the factorization of a fractional ideal in E : this number can be also negative for rationals. When the residue field is finite (finite field $G(p,1)$ for p -adic numbers), one can take c to the number of its elements ($c = p$ for p -adic numbers).

Now it seems that this number is not finite since the number of ordinary primes smaller than P is infinite! But this is not a problem since the topology for completion does not depend on the value of c . The simple infinite primes at the first level (free many-particle states) can be mapped to ordinary rationals and q -adic norm suggests itself: could it be that infinite- P p -adicity corresponds to q -adicity discussed by Khrennikov [A1]. Note however that q -adic numbers are not a field.

Finally a loosely related question. Could the transition from infinite primes of K to those of L takes place just by replacing the finite primes appearing in infinite prime with the decompositions? The resulting entity is infinite prime if the finite and infinite part contain no common prime divisors in L . This is not the case generally if one can have primes P_1 and P_2 of K having common divisors as primes of L : in this case one can include P_1 to the infinite part of infinite prime and P_2 to finite part.

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