

Entanglement entropy and entropy production in the color glass condensate framework

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We compute the entanglement entropy of soft gluons in the wave function of a fast moving hadron and discuss its basic properties. We also derive the expression for entropy production in a high energy hadronic collision within the color glass formalism. We show that long range rapidity correlations give negative contribution to the production entropy. We calculate the (naturally defined) temperature of the produced system of particles, and show that it is proportional to the average transverse momentum of the produced particles. Our calculations apply to the situation when at least one of the colliding objects is dilute.

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I. INTRODUCTION

High energy hadronic scattering is of great current interest. The structure of the hadronic wave function has been the subject of study in the recent years with the aim of better understanding possible manifestations of gluon saturation [1]. The evolution of this wave function with energy, which drives the evolution of high energy scattering amplitude is encoded in the so-called JIMWLK equation [2–4].

The standout property of this color glass condensate (CGC) wave function is that the soft gluons state “grows” out of that of the valence modes. More specifically the wave function of the soft modes is determined by the color charge density of the valence part of the wave function. This suggests a certain “order” in the system, since the soft gluons are entangled with the valence ones. The measure of (dis)order in a quantum system is entropy. In particular entanglement entropy measures the degree of entanglement between different subsets of degrees of freedom in a quantum state. Entanglement entropy measures both how far the system is from a pure state, but also how close it is to a thermal one. It is therefore interesting to ask what is the entanglement entropy of a CGC wave function.

Although entanglement entropy is a characteristic of a hadronic wave function, it also indirectly carries some information about the structure of the final state in collision of this hadron with a hadronic target. For example recently we have shown that Bose-Einstein correlations present in an incoming CGC state [5] manifest themselves as ridge type correlations between particles produced in the final state of an energetic collision. The CGC based calculation of such correlations [6] provides a possible explanation of the ridge correlations observed by the LHC experiments in high multiplicity p-p and p-Pb events [7–10].

In this paper we calculate the entanglement entropy of the soft modes in the CGC wave function. By soft we mean the gluon field modes with the longitudinal momentum in the “last” rapidity bin $\eta < \Delta Y \sim 1/\alpha_s$ which are still energetic enough to participate in scattering at relevant energy. A similar question has been addressed in [11] and more recently in [12], where a definition of dynamical entropy has been proposed. In the present paper we do not use an *ad hoc* definition, but rather directly calculate the standard entanglement entropy of a quantum state.

We also consider the entropy of the produced system of soft particles. An earlier attempt in this direction is presented in [13], while a different approach to the entropy production problem can be found in [14,15] (see also the review [16] and references therein). The knowledge of the outgoing wave function in the CGC formalism allows us to directly calculate the entropy of the final state. We show that the correlations between produced particles give a well-defined contribution to this entropy. This contribution is negative in accordance with one’s naive expectation that stronger correlations mean a more ordered state. We define in a natural way the temperature of the produced system of particles. We show that in the weak field limit the temperature is given by $T = \pi \langle k_{\perp} \rangle / 2$, where $\langle k_{\perp} \rangle$ is the average transverse momentum of the produced particles.

II. THE DENSITY MATRIX AND RENYI ENTROPY

At high energy a hadronic wave function has a large soft gluon component. These are the softest gluons in the wave function which are energetic enough to scatter on a hadronic target. They occupy the rapidity interval $0 < \eta < \Delta Y$ with $\Delta Y \sim 1/\alpha_s$. In what follows we will calculate the entanglement entropy of this component of the wave function.

In the CGC approach the hadronic wave function has the form [17]

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$$\Psi[a, A] = \psi[A] \chi[a, \rho] \quad (2.1)$$

where a is the soft gluon field modes, A are the valence modes (with rapidities $\eta > \Delta Y$) and $\rho^a(x)$ is the color charge density due to the valence gluons. For parametrically color charge density which is parametrically not large, $\rho \ll 1/\alpha_s$ the soft part of the wave function is given by a simple coherent state

$$\chi[a, \rho] = \exp \left\{ i \int_k b_a^i(k) [a_a^{\dagger i}(k) + a_a^i(-k)] \right\} |0\rangle, \quad (2.2)$$

with the Weizsäcker-Williams field $b_a^i(k) = g\rho_a(k) \frac{ik^i}{k^2}$.

We will use this functional form of χ throughout the paper. For parametrically large color charge density $\rho \sim 1/\alpha_s$ the relation between the Weizsäcker-Williams field and ρ becomes nonlinear, and additionally the operator χ is modified by a Bogolyubov factor [18]. This significantly complicates the calculation of entropy, and we will not attempt this generalization here.

The creation and annihilation operators entering the above equation are the gluon operators integrated over rapidity,

$$a_i^a(k) \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{\Delta Y}} \int_{\eta < \Delta Y} \frac{d\eta}{2\pi} a_i^a(\eta, k). \quad (2.3)$$

This structure is typical of the Born-Oppenheimer approximation, where the wave function of the fast degrees of freedom (soft gluons) is determined by the background of slow degrees of freedom (valence gluons). The valence part of the wave function depends on the energy of the process, or in the present context on the total rapidity by which the hadron has been boosted from the rest frame, and is subject to JIMWLK evolution [2]. At any fixed energy a valence observable that depends only on the color charge density $O[\rho]$ is calculated as

$$\langle O \rangle = \int D[\rho] W_Y[\rho] O[\rho]. \quad (2.4)$$

The rapidity dependence of W_Y is determined by JIMWLK evolution. In this paper we will not insist that $W[\rho]$ solves the JIMWLK equation, but instead will consider the (somewhat generalized) McLerran-Venugopalan model [19]

$$W_P[\rho] = \mathcal{N} e^{-\int_{k^2 \mu^2(k)} \frac{1}{k^2} \rho_a(k) \rho_a(-k)} \quad (2.5)$$

where \mathcal{N} is a normalization factor.

Note that the soft wave function Eq. (2.2) depends on a single longitudinal degree of freedom, i.e. the gluon field mode integrated over rapidity in the interval ΔY . Only this mode is relevant to our discussion in this paper. Rapidity dependence becomes significant only when the rapidity

interval considered as soft becomes large enough $\Delta Y > 1/\alpha_s$. For such large rapidity intervals additional rapidity dependence of the wave function appears and our discussion would have to be amended. We will not consider this in the present paper.

The reduced density matrix of the soft gluons in the McLerran-Venugopalan model is [5]

$$\hat{\rho} = \mathcal{N} \int D[\rho] e^{-\int_{k^2 \mu^2(k)} \frac{1}{k^2} \rho_a(k) \rho_a(-k)} \times e^{i \int_q b_b^i(q) \phi_b^i(-q)} |0\rangle \langle 0| e^{-i \int_p b_c^j(p) \phi_c^j(-p)}$$

where we have defined $\phi_a^i(k) = a_a^i(k) + a_a^{\dagger i}(-k)$. The integral over the charge density ρ can be performed with the result

$$\hat{\rho} = \sum_n \frac{1}{n!} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \phi_i M_{ij} \phi_j} \left[\prod_{m=1}^n M_{i_m j_m} \phi_{i_m} |0\rangle \langle 0| \phi_{j_m} \right] e^{-\frac{1}{2} \phi_i M_{ij} \phi_j}. \quad (2.6)$$

Here we have introduced compact notations:

$$\phi_i \equiv [a_i^{\dagger a}(x) + a_i^a(x)];$$

$$M_{ij} \equiv \frac{g^2}{4\pi^2} \int_{u,v} \mu^2(u, v) \frac{(x-u)_i (y-v)_j}{(x-u)^2 (y-v)^2} \delta^{ab}. \quad (2.7)$$

Here M bears two polarization, two color, and two coordinate indices, collectively denoted as $\{ij\}$. In Eq. (2.6) summation over discrete and integration over continuous indices is implied.

Our goal is to calculate the Von Neumann entropy of the reduced density matrix Eq. (2.6). As a warm-up exercise we first compute the Renyi entropy. To this end we have to evaluate $\text{tr}[\hat{\rho}^2]$:

$$\text{tr}[\hat{\rho}^2] = \sum_{n, n'} \frac{1}{n! n'!} \langle 0 | e^{-\phi_i M_{ij} \phi_j} \times \left[\prod_{m=1}^n \prod_{m'=1}^{n'} M_{i_m j_m} M_{i_{m'} j_{m'}} \phi_{j_{m'}} \phi_{i_m} |0\rangle \langle 0| \phi_{j_m} \phi_{i_{m'}} \right] \times e^{-\phi_i M_{ij} \phi_j} |0\rangle. \quad (2.8)$$

Computation of the matrix elements is straightforward as it involves calculation of two vacuum matrix elements, which can be performed by summing over all possible Wick contractions. The explicit form of the light front vacuum wave function is

$$\langle \phi | 0 \rangle = N e^{-\frac{\alpha}{2} \phi_i \phi_i}. \quad (2.9)$$

As this is a Gaussian, it is convenient to introduce

$$G_{ij} \equiv \langle 0 | e^{-\phi_i M_{ij} \phi_j} \phi_i \phi_j | 0 \rangle / \sqrt{\det[\pi/(\pi + 2M)]}$$

$$= [\pi + 2M]_{ij}^{-1} \quad (2.10)$$

where we use the shorthand notation $\pi \equiv \pi \delta_{ij} \delta^{ab} \delta^2(x - y)$. The matrix elements in Eq. (2.8) do not vanish only when the total number of ϕ insertions in each one is even, that is

$$n + n' = 2m. \quad (2.11)$$

The result for $\text{tr}[\hat{\rho}^2]$ is a sum of all possible contractions of MG weighted with combinatoric factors. Given that both M and G are diagonal in color, the expansion can be organized in terms of color loops:

$$L_1 \equiv \text{tr}[MG]; \quad L_2 \equiv \text{tr}[MGMG];$$

$$L_4 \equiv \text{tr}[MGMGMGMG] \dots \quad (2.12)$$

Each trace over color gives a factor N_c^2 . Performing the averaging over the vacuum state we obtain

$$\text{tr}[\hat{\rho}^2] = \det \left[\frac{\pi}{\pi + 2M} \right] \sum_m \sum_{n=0}^{2m} \frac{1}{n!(2m-n)!} [L_2^m (2m-1)!!$$

$$+ L_2^{m-2} L_4 6(2m-5)!! + \dots]. \quad (2.13)$$

Using the identity

$$\sum_{n=0}^{2m} \frac{1}{n!(2m-n)!} (2m-1)!!$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{2m} \frac{1}{n!(2m-n)!} \frac{(2m-1)!}{2^{m-1}(m-1)!} = \frac{2^m}{m!} \quad (2.14)$$

we find that the summation over m exponentiates:

$$\text{tr}[\hat{\rho}^2] = \exp \left[-\text{tr} \left[\ln \left(1 + \frac{2M}{\pi} \right) \right] + 2L_2 + \dots \right]$$

$$\simeq \exp [-2L_1 + L_2 + \dots]. \quad (2.15)$$

After a more careful examination we find that the other terms exponentiate as well

$$\text{tr}[\hat{\rho}^2] = \exp \left[-\text{tr} \left[\ln \left(1 + \frac{2M}{\pi} \right) \right] + \sum_n \frac{2^{2n-1}}{n} L_{2n} \right]$$

$$= \exp \left[-\text{tr} \left[\ln \left(1 + \frac{2M}{\pi} \right) \right] - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} [\ln(1 - (2MG)^2)] \right]. \quad (2.16)$$

Finally using the definition Eq. (2.10) we arrive at the closed-form expression

$$\text{tr}[\hat{\rho}^2] = \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left[\ln \left(1 + \frac{4M}{\pi} \right) \right] \right] \quad (2.17)$$

from which the Renyi entropy is found as

$$\sigma_2 \equiv -\ln \text{tr}[\hat{\rho}^2] = \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left[\ln \left(1 + \frac{4M}{\pi} \right) \right]. \quad (2.18)$$

III. VON NEUMANN ENTROPY

We are now ready to compute the Von Neumann entropy of the reduced density matrix defined as

$$\sigma^E = -\text{tr}[\hat{\rho} \ln \hat{\rho}]. \quad (3.1)$$

The following identity is very useful for this purpose

$$\ln \hat{\rho} = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\epsilon} (\hat{\rho}^\epsilon - 1). \quad (3.2)$$

We first compute $\text{tr}[\hat{\rho}^N]$, for arbitrary N , and then take the limit $N \rightarrow 1 + \epsilon$.

Consider the generalization of Eq. (2.8) to the calculation of $\hat{\rho}^N$. This expression contains a product of N vacuum matrix elements of operators that depend on the field ϕ . Each one of these matrix elements is calculated independently, and thus the fields entering the calculation of different matrix elements can be considered as independent. We thus define the multiplet of *replica fields* ϕ_i^α , $\alpha = 1, \dots, N$. Thus we can write

$$\text{tr}[\hat{\rho}^N] = \langle 0 | e^{-\sum_{\alpha=1}^N \phi_i^\alpha M_{ij} \phi_j^\alpha + \sum_{\alpha=1}^N \phi_i^\alpha M_{ij} \phi_j^{\alpha+1}} | 0 \rangle \quad (3.3)$$

where now $|0\rangle$ is the light front vacuum of all the replica fields ϕ^α . Notice the nearest neighbor ‘‘interaction’’ between the replica fields. The replica fields in Eq. (3.3) satisfy periodic boundary conditions $\phi^{N+1} = \phi^1$.

We further rewrite (3.3)

$$\text{tr}[\hat{\rho}^N] = \left(\frac{\det[\pi]}{2\pi} \right)^{N/2} \int \prod_{\alpha=1}^N [D\phi^\alpha] \exp \left\{ -\frac{\pi}{2} \sum_{\alpha=1}^N \phi_i^\alpha \phi_i^\alpha \right.$$

$$\left. - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha=1}^N (\phi_i^\alpha - \phi_i^{\alpha+1}) M_{ij} (\phi_j^\alpha - \phi_j^{\alpha+1}) \right\}. \quad (3.4)$$

This is a partition function of a spin chain on a replica space lattice. Equation (3.4) obviously has the discrete translational symmetry in the replica space. The ‘‘action’’ is diagonalized by Fourier transforming in α :

$$\tilde{\phi}^n = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\alpha=1}^N e^{i\frac{2\pi}{N} \alpha n} \phi^\alpha; \quad \phi^\alpha = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} e^{-i\frac{2\pi}{N} \alpha n} \tilde{\phi}^n. \quad (3.5)$$

Notice the periodicity relation $\tilde{\phi}^{N-n} = \tilde{\phi}^{*n}$. The nearest-neighbor interaction in Fourier space reads

$$\begin{aligned}
& (\phi_i^\alpha - \phi_i^{\alpha+1})(\phi_j^\alpha - \phi_j^{\alpha+1}) \\
&= \sum_{n,m} (e^{-i\frac{2\pi}{N}n} - 1)(e^{-i\frac{2\pi}{N}m} - 1)e^{-i\frac{2\pi}{N}\alpha(n+m)} \tilde{\phi}_i^n \tilde{\phi}_j^m. \quad (3.6)
\end{aligned}$$

Using

$$\sum_{\alpha} e^{-i\frac{2\pi}{N}\alpha(n+m)} = N\delta_{n+m,N} \quad (3.7)$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& \sum_{\alpha} (\phi_i^\alpha - \phi_i^{\alpha+1})(\phi_j^\alpha - \phi_j^{\alpha+1}) \\
&= N \sum_n (e^{-i\frac{2\pi}{N}n} - 1)(e^{-i\frac{2\pi}{N}(N-n)} - 1) \tilde{\phi}_i^n \tilde{\phi}_j^{*n} \\
&= 4N \sum_n \sin^2\left(\frac{\pi}{N}n\right) \tilde{\phi}_i^n \tilde{\phi}_j^{*n} \quad (3.8)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{tr}[\hat{\rho}^N] &= N^{N/2} \left(\frac{\det[\pi]}{2\pi}\right)^{N/2} \int \prod_n [D\tilde{\phi}^n] \\
&\times \exp\left\{-\frac{N}{2} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \tilde{\phi}_i^n \left[\pi + 4M \sin^2\left(\frac{\pi}{N}n\right)\right]_{ij} \tilde{\phi}_j^{*n}\right\} \quad (3.9)
\end{aligned}$$

where $N^{N/2}$ is the Jacobian of the transformation (3.5). Using the identity

$$\pi + 4M \sin^2\left(\frac{\pi}{N}n\right) = \left[\pi + 2M \left(1 - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{N}n\right)\right)\right] \quad (3.10)$$

the Gaussian integral in (3.9) is easily computable

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{tr}[\hat{\rho}^N] &= \det[\pi]^{N/2} \det \\
&\times \left[\prod_{n=0}^{N-1} \left[\pi + 2M \left(1 - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{N}n\right)\right)\right]\right]^{-1/2}. \quad (3.11)
\end{aligned}$$

Now we apply (1.396) of Ref. [20], with $1 > 2MG > 0$:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \prod_{n=0}^{N-1} \left[\pi + 2M \left(1 - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{N}n\right)\right)\right] \\
&= (2M)^N \prod_{n=0}^{N-1} \left[1 - \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{N}n\right) + \frac{\pi}{2M}\right] \\
&= 2(M)^N \left[\cosh\left(N \text{arcCosh}\left[1 + \frac{\pi}{2M}\right]\right) - 1\right]. \quad (3.12)
\end{aligned}$$

We finally arrive at the following expression for $\text{tr}[\hat{\rho}^N]$:

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{tr}[\hat{\rho}^N] &= \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2} \ln 2 - \frac{N}{2} \text{tr}\left[\ln \frac{M}{\pi}\right] \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}\left[\ln\left(\cosh\left(N \text{arcCosh}\left[1 + \frac{\pi}{2M}\right]\right) - 1\right)\right]\right\}. \quad (3.13)
\end{aligned}$$

The entropy is computed by taking $N = 1 + \epsilon$ and keeping the terms linear in ϵ :

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{tr}[\hat{\rho}^{1+\epsilon}] &\simeq \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2} \ln 2 - \frac{1+\epsilon}{2} \text{tr}\left[\ln \frac{M}{\pi}\right] \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}\left[\ln\left(\frac{\pi}{2M} + \epsilon \frac{\pi}{2M} \sqrt{1 + \frac{4M}{\pi} \text{arcCosh}\left[1 + \frac{\pi}{2M}\right]}\right)\right]\right\} \\
&= 1 + \frac{\epsilon}{2} \text{tr}\left[\ln \frac{\pi}{M} - \sqrt{1 + \frac{4M}{\pi} \text{arcCosh}\left[1 + \frac{\pi}{2M}\right]}\right]. \quad (3.14)
\end{aligned}$$

Thus we arrive at a closed expression for the entanglement entropy

$$\begin{aligned}
\sigma^E &= \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}\left[\ln \frac{M}{\pi} + \sqrt{1 + \frac{4M}{\pi} \text{arcCosh}\left[1 + \frac{\pi}{2M}\right]}\right] \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}\left\{\ln \frac{M}{\pi} + \sqrt{1 + \frac{4M}{\pi}} \right. \\
&\quad \left. \times \ln\left[1 + \frac{\pi}{2M} \left(1 + \sqrt{1 + \frac{4M}{\pi}}\right)\right]\right\}. \quad (3.15)
\end{aligned}$$

To understand the basic properties of this expression let us consider the translationally invariant case. In this case the matrix M is diagonal in momentum space,

$$M_{ij}^{ab}(p) = g^2 \mu^2(p^2) \frac{P_i P_j}{p^4} \delta^{ab}. \quad (3.16)$$

In the original McLerran-Venugopalan (MV) model μ^2 is a constant and does not depend on momentum, but the momentum dependent Gaussian width has been used in recent applications (see e.g. [21]). The contribution to the entropy from large transverse momentum modes can be calculated by expanding the expression Eq. (3.15) to leading order in M , since for large momenta ($g^2 \mu^2 < p^2$) the eigenvalues of M are all small. The expression for the entropy in the weak field limit is

$$\sigma_{M \ll 1}^E = \text{tr}\left[\frac{M}{\pi} \ln \frac{\pi e}{M}\right]. \quad (3.17)$$

Here we have kept the first two terms in the small M expansion, which are not suppressed by powers of M .

Thus the dominant ultraviolet contribution is

$$\sigma_{UV}^E \approx -\frac{g^2}{\pi}(N_c^2 - 1)S \int \frac{d^2p}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{\mu^2(p^2)}{p^2} \times \ln \frac{g^2 \mu^2(p^2)}{e\pi p^2} \theta\left(p^2 - \frac{g^2}{\pi} \mu^2(p^2)\right) \quad (3.18)$$

where S is the total area of the projectile. For the original MV model with momentum independent μ this expression is logarithmically divergent in the UV. Introducing a UV cutoff Λ we find

$$\sigma_{UV}^E \approx \frac{Q_s^2}{4\pi g^2}(N_c^2 - 1)S \left[\ln^2 \frac{g^2 \Lambda^2}{Q_s^2} + \ln \frac{g^2 \Lambda^2}{Q_s^2} \right] \quad (3.19)$$

where we have identified the saturation momentum in the standard way as $Q_s^2 = g^4 \mu^2/\pi$. The UV divergence in this expression is of course the artifact of the eikonal approximation which in the CGC context is applied for all transverse momentum modes. In fact the eikonal approximation breaks down when the transverse momentum of the soft gluons is of the order of their longitudinal momentum. The natural cutoff on the transverse momentum is of order $\Lambda \sim P^+ e^{-Y} \sim m e^{Y_0}$, where P^+ is the total energy of the hadron and m is a typical hadronic scale and Y_0 is the rapidity of the soft gluons. This cutoff does not depend on the total energy of the hadron, but rather on some initial energy at which the eikonal approximation is assumed to be valid [22].

The contribution from the infrared modes can also be calculated. At small momenta $p^2 < Q_s^2/g^2$ one can formally expand in M^{-1} [23]. In this limit the entropy is dominated by the first term in Eq. (3.15). Here we also keep the first subleading correction:

$$\sigma_{M \rightarrow \infty}^E \approx \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left[\ln \frac{e^2 M}{\pi} \right] \quad (3.20)$$

and the infrared contribution is

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{IR}^E &\approx \frac{1}{2}(N_c^2 - 1)S \int \frac{d^2p}{(2\pi)^2} \ln \frac{e^2 g^2 \mu^2(p^2)}{\pi p^2} \theta(Q_s^2 - g^2 p^2) \\ &= \frac{3}{8\pi g^2}(N_c^2 - 1)S Q_s^2. \end{aligned} \quad (3.21)$$

Note that we have chosen to separate the integration region into UV and IR at exactly $p^2 = Q_s^2/g^2$ in Eqs. (3.18), (3.21). Although the parametric dependence of the separation scale is clear, its exact value is somewhat arbitrary. Our reason for choosing the above value is that at this value of p^2 the integrands in Eqs. (3.18), (3.21) exactly coincide. Thus this is a unique choice for which the approximation of the total momentum space entropy density by the sum of its asymptotic expressions is a continuous function of momentum.

Combining the two expressions we find approximately for the MV model

$$\sigma^E \approx \sigma_{UV}^E + \sigma_{IR}^E = \frac{S Q_s^2}{4\pi g^2}(N_c^2 - 1) \left[\ln^2 \frac{g^2 \Lambda^2}{Q_s^2} + \ln \frac{g^2 \Lambda^2}{Q_s^2} + \frac{3}{2} \right]. \quad (3.22)$$

A word on the dependence of the entropy on the energy (rapidity) of the hadron. The above calculation is performed at fixed rapidity. The hadronic wave function evolves to higher rapidity via JIMWLK evolution. Since this evolution is nonlinear, the soft gluon wave function is not given by a Gaussian anymore, especially in the saturation regime. Calculating the entropy for a non-Gaussian wave function is significantly more difficult, although we will describe some steps toward such a calculation in the last section. However, as has been suggested in the past, approximating the soft gluon wave function by a Gaussian is not a bad approximation for phenomenological purposes as long as the parameters of the Gaussian are taken to evolve with rapidity in a way consistent with JIMWLK evolution [24].

In particular one can still use the MV type ansatz but with the function $\mu_Y(p^2)$ taken to be a solution of the Balitsky, Fadin, Kuraev and Lipatov (BFKL) [25] (or Balitsky and Kovchegov (BK) [4,26]) evolution equation. Within this approximation one can derive the evolution of the entropy with the total energy of the hadron. In the weak coupling limit, where the evolution of μ is given by the BFKL equation, differentiating the weak field expression Eq. (3.17) we find

$$\frac{d\sigma^E}{dY} = -(N_c^2 - 1)S \int \frac{d^2p}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{d^2k}{(2\pi)^2} \ln[\phi(p^2)] K_{\text{BFKL}}(p, k) \phi(k^2) \quad (3.23)$$

where $\phi(k^2) \equiv \frac{g^2}{\pi} \frac{\mu^2(k^2)}{k^2}$ is the gluon unintegrated density, and K_{BFKL} is the kernel of the BFKL equation.

In contrast to the MV model, the solution of the BFKL/BK equation at large rapidity exhibits an anomalous dimension which slowly varies with transverse momentum

$$\frac{g^2}{\pi} \mu_Y^2(p^2) \sim p^{\gamma(p)}, \quad (3.24)$$

with $\gamma(p \gg Q_s) \rightarrow 1$; $\gamma(p \sim Q_s) \approx .67$ and $\gamma(p < Q_s) = 0$. Note that with such an anomalous dimension the entropy diverges as a power of the cutoff in the ultraviolet as $\sigma_{UV} \propto \Lambda^\gamma$.

Some properties of the entanglement entropy of CGC are worth noting. First, it is proportional to the transverse area of the hadron. This conclusion holds for the MV model calculation, and is also preserved by the BFKL evolution Eq. (3.23). This is a natural property of any extensive observable. However σ^E is not extensive in the longitudinal direction. Recall that σ^E as calculated above is the entropy on

the rapidity slice of width ΔY , but σ^E is not proportional to ΔY . The reason for this is of course clear, since only a single rapidity independent mode on the interval ΔY is entangled with the valence degrees of freedom of the hadron. For the same reason the entropy does not have any longitudinal UV divergence associated with the fact that we have a sharp boundary between soft and valence degrees of freedom in rapidity space. This is very different from a situation one encounters in calculating entanglement entropy of a finite region of space A in a local field theory when integrating out degrees of freedom in the rest of space B . In the latter case the local interaction between the degrees of freedom along the boundary between A and B leads to a UV divergence which depends on the ratio of the correlation length to the (vanishing) width of the boundary region. In our case the interaction in the longitudinal direction is nonlocal. The eikonal interaction between soft and valence degrees of freedom extends over large distances in rapidity, so that there is no significant contribution to the entropy from the (sharp) boundary. In this sense the entanglement entropy of the CGC is akin to the ‘‘topological entropy’’ [27] frequently discussed in the context of condensed matter systems, which is a constant independent of the boundary or volume of the spatial region under consideration.

Recently, the ‘‘momentum space’’ entanglement entropy has been discussed in connection with Wilsonian renormalization group flow [28]. It would be interesting to explore the relation of these ideas with Eq. (3.23) as σ^E is indeed calculated by separating degrees of freedom in momentum space, while the BFKL equation has been interpreted in the past as RG flow in rapidity variable [29].

IV. ENTROPY PRODUCTION IN COLLISION

Our next quantity of interest is the entropy production during collision of two hadrons. We calculate the entropy in the rapidity bin of width ΔY at rapidity Y away from the valence charges. All the glue at rapidities $\eta < Y + \Delta Y$ relative to the forward moving particles is considered to be part of the target wave function and as in the standard saturation approach is represented by the eikonal scattering matrix $S(x)$. Just like in the previous section, we consider the situation where the projectile is dilute (projectile color charge density parametrically is $\rho \ll 1/\alpha_s$).

According to the eikonal paradigm the effect of the collision is to color rotate the valence as well as the soft gluon field in the wave function, so that at time $t = 0$ right after the collision

$$\begin{aligned} \psi[A]\chi[a, \rho] &\rightarrow \hat{S}\psi[A]\chi[a, \rho] = \psi[SA]\chi[Sa, S\rho] \\ &= \psi[SA] \exp \left\{ i \int_x \tilde{b}_a^i(x) S(x) [a_a^{\dagger i}(x) + a_a^i(x)] \right\} |0\rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (4.1)$$

where $\tilde{b}_a^i(x)$ is the Wetzacker-Williams field produced by the rotated color charge density $\tilde{\rho}^b(z) = S^{bc}(z)\rho^c(z)$. Here \hat{S} is the second quantized operator of eikonal S -matrix. The action of \hat{S} to the right (and \hat{S}^\dagger to the left) is equivalent to the multiplication of $a^a(x)$, $a^{\dagger a}(x)$ and $\rho^a(x)$ by the unitary matrix $S(x)$. Since \hat{S} is a unitary operator which does not mix valence and soft degrees of freedom, it is clear that the initial scattering does not modify the entanglement entropy. To see this explicitly we note that in the basis $\tilde{\rho}(x) = S(x)\rho(x)$ and $\tilde{\phi}(x) = S(x)\phi(x)$ the form of the scattered wave function is identical to that of the incoming one in the original basis. Since the integration measure for ρ as well as the vacuum wave function for $\phi(x)$ Eq. (2.9) are invariant under this local unitary transformation, changing variables to $\tilde{\rho}$ and $\tilde{\phi}$ in the calculation of the entropy immediately establishes that the entropy is the same.

However the entropy produced in collision is not the same as the entanglement entropy of the final state. Here one is interested only in characteristics of inelastically produced gluonic state, and not, say in the contribution of soft gluons which are part of the wave function of outgoing ‘‘bound state’’ hadrons. Thus the relevant quantity for calculating the production entropy is not the wave function evolved to $t \rightarrow \infty$, but only its ‘‘inelastically produced’’ part. This is a similar problem to the one we are faced with when calculating any soft gluon observable produced in collision, i.e. single or double gluon inclusive cross section. In that context the solution is well known. Recall, that a gluonic observable $O(a, a^\dagger)$ at $t \rightarrow \infty$ is given by the expression [30]

$$\begin{aligned} \langle O \rangle &= \int d\rho W[\rho] \langle 0 | e^{-i \int_x b_a^i[\rho](x) \phi_a^i(x)} \hat{S}^\dagger e^{i \int_x b_a^i[\rho](x) \phi_a^i(x)} \\ &\times O(a, a^\dagger) e^{-i \int_x b_a^i[\rho](x) \phi_a^i(x)} \hat{S} e^{i \int_x b_a^i[\rho](x) \phi_a^i(x)} |0\rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (4.2)$$

The multiplication by the extra coherent operator factor accounts for the evolution of the wave function from time $t = 0$ to time $t \rightarrow \infty$ as well as restricting Hilbert space for the calculation of O to that of inelastically produced gluons only.

Since this formula is valid for an arbitrary soft observable $O(a, a^\dagger)$, clearly this means that the density matrix that describes the *produced* soft gluons has exactly the same form as Eq. (2.6) but with the matrix M substituted by

$$\begin{aligned} M^P &\equiv \frac{g^2}{4\pi^2} \int_{u,v} \mu^2(u, v) \frac{(x-u)_i (y-v)_j}{(x-u)^2 (y-v)^2} \\ &\times [(S(u) - S(x))(S^\dagger(v) - S^\dagger(y))]^{ab}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.3)$$

Thus the entropy produced in a hadronic collision, which is the Van Neumann entropy of the density matrix specified by Eq. (4.3) is given by

$$\sigma^P = \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left\{ \ln \frac{M^P}{\pi} + \sqrt{1 + \frac{4M^P}{\pi}} \right. \\ \left. \times \ln \left[1 + \frac{\pi}{2M^P} \left(1 + \sqrt{1 + \frac{4M^P}{\pi}} \right) \right] \right\}. \quad (4.4)$$

Although the formal expression for σ^P is similar to that for σ^E , it has a different meaning and its properties are significantly different. We stress that σ^P is not an entanglement entropy like σ^E , but rather the entropy of the state produced inelastically in the hadronic collision. As a result σ^P is UV finite. This is clear, since the UV divergence in the calculation of σ^P came from the coordinate region $x \rightarrow y \rightarrow u \rightarrow v$, and M^P vanishes in this limit, as opposed to M .

Another important property is that σ^P as defined in Eq. (4.4) is calculated for a single scattering event characterized by a given eikonal profile $S(x)$. Although it certainly makes sense to talk about event by event entropy production, a more global characteristic of scattering would be an event averaged quantity. We will next consider such an average production entropy and will relate it to inclusive gluon production amplitudes.

Note that Eq. (4.3) can be written as a product of single inclusive gluon production amplitude Q_i defined in [30] averaged over the projectile wave function

$$M_{ij}^P = \int D[\rho] Q_i Q_j W_P[\rho] \equiv \langle Q_i Q_j \rangle_P \quad (4.5)$$

where

$$Q_i^a(x) = \frac{g}{2\pi} \int_u \frac{(x-u)_i}{(x-u)^2} [S(u) - S(x)]^{ab} \rho^b(u) \quad (4.6)$$

with S being in the adjoint representation.

The target average of this expression is directly related to the single inclusive gluon production probability, or rather the phase space density $n = dN/dkdydb$ is

$$n(k) = \frac{dN}{d^2kdyd^2b} = \int_{xy} \langle\langle Q_i^a(x) Q_i^a(y) \rangle\rangle_{P,T} e^{ik(x-y)} \quad (4.7)$$

where as usual the averaging over the target fields has to be performed with some weight function $W[S]$.

In order to relate the average entropy to inclusive gluon production amplitudes we expand it in powers of the fluctuation of the matrix M^P around its target average

$$M^P = \bar{M}^P + (M^P - \bar{M}^P); \quad \bar{M}^P \equiv \int \text{DSW}[S] M^P[S]. \quad (4.8)$$

The target average has the form

$$\bar{M}^P = -\delta^{ab} \frac{g^2}{4\pi^2} \int_{u,v} \mu^2(u,v) \frac{(x-u)_i (y-v)_j}{(x-u)^2 (y-v)^2} [P_A(x,y) \\ + P_A(u,v) - P_A(x,v) - P_A(u,y)] \quad (4.9)$$

where the ‘‘adjoint Pomeron’’ is defined as

$$P_A(x,y) = 1 - \frac{1}{N_c^2 - 1} \langle \text{tr}[S^\dagger(x)S(y)] \rangle_T. \quad (4.10)$$

Although \bar{M}^P is related to the single inclusive gluon production probability, the two are not equal to each other.

Assuming translational invariance of μ and P_A we have

$$\bar{M}^P = \delta^{ab} g^2 \int_{k,q} e^{-ik(x-y)} K_{ij}(k,q) \mu^2(k-q) P_A(q) \quad (4.11)$$

where

$$K_{ij}(p,q) = \frac{(k-q)_i (k-q)_j}{(k-q)^2 (k-q)^2} + \frac{k_i k_j}{k^2 k^2} - \frac{(k-q)_i k_j}{(k-q)^2 k^2} \\ - \frac{(k-q)_j k_i}{(k-q)^2 k^2}. \quad (4.12)$$

Conveniently assuming parity invariant target, we can decompose $\langle M^P \rangle_T$ in momentum space as

$$\bar{M}^P(k) = \delta^{ab} \left[M_l(k^2) \frac{k_i k_j}{k^2} + M_t(k^2) \left(\delta_{ij} - \frac{k_i k_j}{k^2} \right) \right]. \quad (4.13)$$

As opposed to M , the matrix M^P has both longitudinal and transverse components. These correspond to gluons produced with polarizations parallel and perpendicular to their transverse momentum. Clearly both polarizations in general are produced, since the gluons in question are free gluons rather than a part of the dressing of the wave function of some faster moving valence color charges. The inclusive gluon production cross section [31] is related to the sum of the two polarizations

$$n(k) \propto M_l(k) + M_t(k). \quad (4.14)$$

Let us consider the case of small M^P , which is relevant for the UV regime. We can then use Eq. (3.17)

$$\begin{aligned}
\bar{\sigma}^P &= \left\langle \text{tr} \left[\frac{M^P}{\pi} \ln \frac{\pi e}{M^P} \right] \right\rangle_T \\
&= \text{tr} \left[\frac{\bar{M}^P}{\pi} \ln \frac{\pi e}{\bar{M}^P} \right] \\
&\quad - \frac{1}{2\pi} \text{tr} [\{ \langle M^P M^P \rangle_T - (\bar{M}^P)^2 \} (\bar{M}^P)^{-1}] \dots \quad (4.15)
\end{aligned}$$

Using the representation (4.13), the first term in (4.15) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{tr} \left[\frac{\bar{M}^P}{\pi} \ln \frac{\pi e}{\bar{M}^P} \right] &= -\frac{N_c^2 - 1}{\pi} \int \frac{d^2 k}{(2\pi)^2} \left[M_l(k^2) \ln \frac{M_l(k^2)}{e\pi} \right. \\
&\quad \left. + M_t(k^2) \ln \frac{M_t(k^2)}{e\pi} \right]. \quad (4.16)
\end{aligned}$$

This has the standard form $\sigma = -\sum_i n_i \ln n_i$ for the system of noninteracting particle species. The index i here refers to transverse momentum as well as the longitudinal and transverse gluon polarizations. Note that it cannot be expressed in terms of the total particle spectrum $n(k)$, unless the longitudinal and transverse eigenvalues of M^P are proportional to each other. Generically we do not see a reason to expect that this is the case. Nevertheless, up to logarithmic corrections the entropy production is proportional to the number of produced gluons. For a parametrically large number of produced particles ($\alpha_s dN/d\eta \sim 1$), the entropy is parametrically of order $1/\alpha_s$. Although our calculation literally taken is only valid for dilute produced systems, we believe that the parametric estimate of entropy based on Eq. (4.16) remains correct in the dense situation as well.

The second term in (4.15) is related to correlated inclusive two gluon production [6,32–39]. Pictorially this term can be represented in Fig. 1(a). This diagram (apart from the fact that two of the gluon polarization indices do not close) is the same as the connected “glasma graph” contribution to the two gluon correlation [34]. The

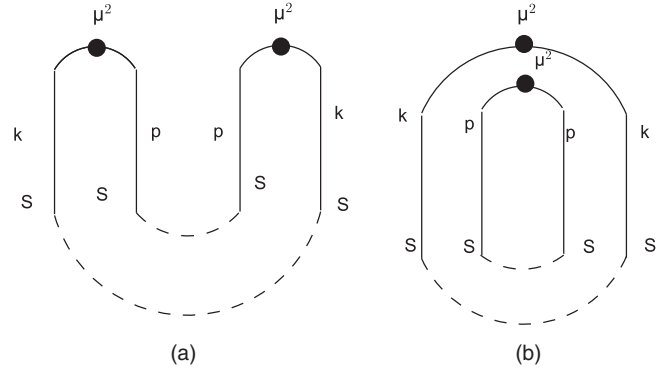


FIG. 1. Two contributions to the inclusive two gluon production. Fig. 1(a)—“connected” part that contributes to entropy Eq. (4.15). Fig. 1(b)—“disconnected part that does not contribute to the entropy Eq. (4.15).

“disconnected” diagram in Fig. 1(b) is not included in the expression Eq. (4.15). Note that although the diagram in Fig. 1(b) has a disconnected topology, it does in fact contribute to the correlated production in the large N_c limit if the target averages do not factorize [37,40]. In the language of the Reggeon field theory, this contribution is due to correlated production from two Pomerons, while the diagrams in Fig. 1(a) are due to correlated production from the B-reggeon [41].

With this in mind we can write

$$\begin{aligned}
\delta\sigma^P &= \frac{1}{2\pi} \text{tr} [\{ \langle M^P M^P \rangle_T - (\bar{M}^P)^2 \} (\bar{M}^P)^{-1}] \\
&\propto \int d^2 k d^2 p [\langle a_i^{\dagger a}(p) a_i^{\dagger b}(k) a_j^c(k) a_l^a(p) \rangle_{(B)} \\
&\quad - \langle a_i^{\dagger a}(p) a_l^a(p) \rangle \langle a_i^{\dagger b}(k) a_j^c(k) \rangle] (\bar{M}^P)^{-1}_{ji}{}^{cb}(k). \quad (4.17)
\end{aligned}$$

Or in a less convoluted way:

$$\begin{aligned}
\delta\sigma^P &= -\frac{g^4}{32\pi^5 (N_c^2 - 1)} \int_{u,v,\bar{u},\bar{v},y,x,\bar{x},k} \mu^2(u,v) \mu^2(\bar{u},\bar{v}) e^{ik(x-\bar{x})} \left[\frac{1}{M_l(k^2)} \frac{k_i k_j}{k^2} + \frac{1}{M_t(k^2)} \left(\delta_{ij} - \frac{k_i k_j}{k^2} \right) \right] \\
&\quad \times \frac{(x-u)_i (y-v)_m (\bar{x}-\bar{u})_j (y-\bar{v})_m}{(x-u)^2 (y-v)^2 (\bar{x}-\bar{u})^2 (y-\bar{v})^2} \\
&\quad \times \text{tr} [\{ (S(u) - S(x))(S^\dagger(v) - S^\dagger(y)) \} \{ (S(\bar{u}) - S(\bar{x}))(S^\dagger(\bar{v}) - S^\dagger(y)) \}]_T + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_k n(k). \quad (4.18)
\end{aligned}$$

Again, we see that if the longitudinal and transverse parts of M are proportional to each other at all momenta, the extra contribution to entropy is proportional to the double inclusive gluon correlation function integrated over the gluon momenta. If $M_l(k) \neq aM_t(k)$, the longitudinal and

transverse gluon polarizations are separately normalized to their single inclusive production probability.

Interestingly the correlation function in Eq. (4.17) is normalized by dividing by the first power of the single inclusive gluon production and not its square. Recall that

the correlated gluon production normalized this way remains finite in the CGC approach in the limit $Q_s^2 S \rightarrow \infty$, while the correlation function normalized to the square of single inclusive gluon vanishes in this limit [6,37].

The natural, but nevertheless interesting property of Eq. (4.15), is that the contribution of correlations to entropy is negative. This is in accordance with the intuition that a correlated state contains more order and thus has a smaller entropy.

As noted above, the produced entropy is UV finite, since in the UV limit all adjoint Pomerons in Eq. (4.9) vanish, and the divergent contribution to the momentum integral in Eq. (4.15) disappears. This is even clearer from the momentum space representation of M^P Eq. (4.11). The perturbative behavior of the adjoint Pomeron at large momenta is $P(q) \propto Q_T^2/q^4$, which leads to $M^P(k \rightarrow \infty) \rightarrow Q_p^2 Q_T^2/g^2 k^4$. Even accounting for the BFKL anomalous dimension leads to the UV convergent integral in Eq. (4.16). The integral in Eq. (4.16) is also IR finite, since the expected IR behavior is $P(q \rightarrow 0) \rightarrow 1/Q_T^2$.

In general the consequence of Eq. (4.9) (neglecting the rotational indices for the moment) is

$$M^P(q) = \pi \frac{Q_p^2}{g^2 Q_T^2} F\left(\frac{Q_T^2}{q^2}\right) \quad (4.19)$$

where F is a regular function with the limiting behavior $F(x \rightarrow 0) \rightarrow \text{const}x^2$ and $F(x \rightarrow \infty) \rightarrow \text{const}$. Using Eq. (4.19) we can estimate the entropy production parametrically

$$\sigma^P \sim a(N_c^2 - 1)S \frac{Q_p^2}{\pi g^2} \ln \frac{bg^2 Q_T^2}{Q_p^2} \quad (4.20)$$

where a and b are constants of order unity.

V. DISCUSSION

In this paper we have calculated the entanglement entropy of the soft gluon modes in the CGC wave function, as well as entropy produced in hadronic collision at high energy. In these calculations we have relied on the MV model to represent the valence part of the hadronic wave function.

The entanglement entropy is an interesting theoretical quantity, as it is a global characteristic of the soft gluon density matrix. Its basic properties are determined by the fact that only one longitudinal mode of the soft gluon field, namely the rapidity independent mode is entangled with the valence part of the wave function. The entropy therefore is not extensive in the length of the rapidity interval, and in this sense is akin to the topological entropy discussed these days in condensed matter literature [27]. In a certain sense the analogy is closer than it might seem, as the origin of the

topological entropy is in the long range quantum entanglement.

We find that the entanglement entropy of CGC is formally UV divergent and is dominated by the modes with large transverse momentum $p_\perp^2 > Q_s^2/g^2$. The contribution from the IR modes is finite and suppressed by a square of the logarithm of the UV cutoff.

We have also derived an expression for the entropy production in an hadronic collision. We have shown that it is related to inclusive gluon production amplitudes, but is not determined exclusively in terms of these amplitudes. In particular it depends on the production probabilities of longitudinally and transversely (with respect to the direction of their transverse momentum) polarized gluons separately. We also find that correlated gluon emission gives a negative contribution to the produced entropy, consistent with the view of entropy as measuring disorder in the final state. Just like the entanglement entropy, the produced entropy is not extensive in the rapidity interval over which it is calculated. The reason is the same: in the CGC approximation all final state particles are produced from a single longitudinal boost invariant mode.

Having calculated the entropy, the natural question is whether one can define the corresponding temperature. The natural definition would be the usual thermodynamic one

$$T^{-1} = \frac{d\sigma}{dE_\perp} \quad (5.1)$$

where E_\perp is the transverse energy of the system.

It is not clear whether this is a sensible quantity for the entanglement entropy. If for E_\perp we take the obvious

$$E_\perp \propto \int d^2k |k| M(k) \propto \frac{Q_s^2 S}{g^2} \Lambda \quad (5.2)$$

we obtain for the ‘‘entanglement temperature’’

$$T_E \propto \frac{\Lambda}{(N_c^2 - 1) \ln \frac{\Lambda^2 g^2}{Q_s^2}} \rightarrow \infty \quad (5.3)$$

which reflects the fact that the entanglement entropy is dominated by the UV modes and is formally UV divergent.

On the other hand for the produced system of particles Eq. (4.11) gives

$$E_\perp \propto (N_c^2 - 1)S \frac{Q_p^2}{g^2} Q_T. \quad (5.4)$$

This is just the statement that the average transverse momentum of produced particles is proportional to Q_T , while the number of particles produced is of the order Q_p^2/g^2 .

Since the entropy Eq. (4.20) is not only a function of E_\perp , the definition of temperature is somewhat ambiguous. To

define the temperature one has to decide which combination of Q_P and Q_T has to be kept fixed. Choosing which combination to keep fixed corresponds to deciding what is the analog of increasing the energy in the *same* statistical mechanical system. One reasonable choice is to keep Q_P fixed, since this corresponds to increasing the energy of the produced system by boosting the target, while keeping the projectile unchanged. With this choice using Eq. (4.20) we find

$$T = cQ_T = \frac{\pi}{2} \langle k_\perp \rangle \quad (5.5)$$

where c is a constant of order unity and $\langle k_\perp \rangle = E_\perp / N_{\text{total}} = \frac{\int d^2k |k| M(k)}{\int d^2p M(p)}$ is the average transverse momentum per produced particle. Note, that even though the relation between $\langle k_\perp \rangle$ and Q_T depends on the details of the function F in Eq. (4.19), the relation between $\langle k_\perp \rangle$ and temperature is determined exactly. Equation (5.5) is an intuitively simple result showing that the effective temperature is proportional to average momentum per particle. We are nevertheless not aware of a direct derivation of this result from the density matrix of the system produced in collision.

All our calculations were performed in the MV model. The Gaussian weight for the valence charge density averaging made it possible to express the entropy directly in terms of a single function M^P . The actual weight functional evolves with energy and is determined by solving the JIMWLK equation. Although the calculation of entropy in the case of non-Gaussian $W[\rho]$ is more complicated, one can try to approach it in a similar way.

We would have to calculate

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}[\hat{\rho}^N] &= \text{tr} \int \prod_{\beta=1}^N D[\rho_\beta] W_P[\rho_\beta] e^{i \int_k b_\beta(k) \phi(k)} |0\rangle \langle 0| \\ &\times e^{-i \int_k b_\beta(k) \phi(k)}. \end{aligned} \quad (5.6)$$

Integrating over ρ_β , and resorting to the same replica trick yields

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}[\hat{\rho}^N] &= \left(\frac{\det[\pi]}{2\pi} \right)^{N/2} \int \prod_{\alpha=1}^N [D\phi^\alpha] \\ &\times \exp \left\{ -\frac{\pi}{2} \sum_{\alpha=1}^N \phi_i^\alpha \phi_i^\alpha + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\alpha=1}^N \Gamma[\phi^\alpha - \phi^{\alpha+1}] \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (5.7)$$

Here as before we have introduced N replicas—one for each vacuum matrix elements. In Eq. (5.7) Γ is the effective action. Interestingly, it is directly related to the projectile scattering matrix, since

$$S = \int D\rho W_P[\rho] e^{ig \int_{x,u} \rho^\alpha(x) \frac{(x-u)}{(x-u)^2} [\phi_i^\alpha(u) - \phi_i^{\alpha+1}(u)]} \equiv e^{-\frac{1}{2} \Gamma[\phi^\alpha - \phi^{\alpha+1}]} \quad (5.8)$$

is precisely the scattering matrix element of the projectile on the “target field” $\phi_i^\alpha(u) - \phi_i^{\alpha+1}(u)$.

The action Γ can be expanded in terms of connected correlators of the valence color charge density

$$\Gamma[\phi] = \Gamma_{ij}^2 \phi_i \phi_j + \Gamma_{ijn}^3 \phi_i \phi_j \phi_n + \Gamma_{ijnm}^4 \phi_i \phi_j \phi_n \phi_m + \dots \quad (5.9)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_{ij}^2 &= \frac{\delta^2 \Gamma[\phi]}{\delta \phi_i \delta \phi_j} \Big|_{\phi=0} \\ &= -\frac{g^2}{4\pi^2} \int_{u,v} \frac{(x-u)_i (y-v)_j}{(x-u)^2 (y-v)^2} \langle \rho^a(u) \rho^b(v) \rangle_P \\ \Gamma_{ijn}^3 &= \frac{\delta^3 \Gamma[\phi]}{\delta \phi_i \delta \phi_j \delta \phi_n} \Big|_{\phi=0} \\ &= -\frac{g^2}{8\pi^3} \int_{u,v,w} \frac{(x-u)_i (y-v)_j (z-w)_n}{(x-u)^2 (y-v)^2 (z-w)^2} \\ &\quad \times \langle \rho^a(u) \rho^b(v) \rho^c(w) \rangle_P \\ \Gamma_{ijnm}^4 &= -\frac{g^2}{16\pi^4} \int_{u,v,w,w'} \frac{(x-u)_i (y-v)_j (z-w)_n}{(x-u)^2 (y-v)^2 (z-w)^2} \\ &\quad \times \frac{(z'-w')_m}{(z'-w')^2} \langle \rho^a(u) \rho^b(v) \rho^c(w) \rho^d(w') \rangle_P^{\text{conn}} \end{aligned} \quad (5.10)$$

where the connected correlators are calculated as

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \rho^a(u) \rho^b(v) \rangle_P &= \int D[\rho] \rho^a(u) \rho^b(v) W_P[\rho] \\ \langle \rho^a(u) \rho^b(v) \rho^c(w) \rangle_P &= \int D[\rho] \rho^a(u) \rho^b(v) \rho^c(w) W_P[\rho] \\ \langle \rho^a(u) \rho^b(v) \rho^c(w) \rho^d(w') \rangle_P^{\text{conn}} &= \int D[\rho] \rho^a(u) \rho^b(v) \rho^c(w) \rho^d(w') W_P[\rho] |_{\text{connected}}. \end{aligned} \quad (5.11)$$

If the connected correlators of ρ are small, these formulas can serve as a starting point for perturbative calculation of the entropy.

An alternative strategy could be to first integrate over ϕ in Eq. (5.6). This leads to the following expression:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}[\hat{\rho}^N] = & \int \prod_{\beta=1}^N D\rho_{\beta} \exp \left\{ - \sum_{\beta=1}^N \left[-\ln W_{\rho}[\rho_{\beta}] \right. \right. \\ & \left. \left. + \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{k,k'} (b_{\beta+1}(k) - b_{\beta}(k))(b_{\beta+1}(k') - b_{\beta}(k')) \right] \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (5.12)$$

where $b_{N+1} = b_1$. This has the form of a discrete lattice model with the same ‘‘hopping term’’ as in Sec. II, but with a different on site potential $V[\rho] = -\ln[W[\rho]]$.

To take the limit $N \rightarrow 1 + \epsilon$ one would need to perform the integration over the replica fields analytically. If the projectile is dilute, the potential $V[\rho]$ is sharply peaked at small ρ and the integral can be calculated in the ‘‘tight binding approximation.’’ For the dense projectile on the other hand, the potential is small since large fluctuations of charge density are allowed. In this case one can expand around the free ‘‘hopping term.’’ It would be interesting to study the effects of non-Gaussianity on the entropy with the help of these approximations for realistic $W[\rho]$.

In this paper, in order to compute the entanglement entropy (and the entropy production), we have used the density matrix of soft gluons derived after tracing over valence gluons. As a further development of the above

ideas, one can consider a further reduction of the density matrix. In particular, since gluons with very small transverse momenta are unobservable, it could be interesting to trace over gluons with momenta below some soft scale and consider the entropy of the remaining modes. Another interesting venue would be to relate two-particle correlations, particularly long range rapidity correlations, to the concept of *mutual information*. The latter is defined through entanglement entropy of two different subsets of modes in the hadronic wave function.

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