

Entanglement Beyond AdS

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ABSTRACT: We continue our study of string theory in a background that interpolates between AdS_3 in the infrared and a linear dilaton spacetime $\mathbb{R}^{1,1} \times \mathbb{R}_\phi$ in the UV. This background corresponds via holography to a CFT_2 deformed by an operator of dimension $(2, 2)$. We discuss the structure of spatial entanglement in this model, and compare it to the closely related $T\bar{T}$ deformed CFT_2 .

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1 Introduction

We have recently [1–4] initiated a detailed study of string theory in backgrounds of the form

$$\mathcal{M}_3 \times \mathcal{N}, \tag{1.1}$$

where \mathcal{N} is a compact space, and \mathcal{M}_3 interpolates between a three dimensional linear dilaton background in the ultraviolet (UV) and AdS_3 in the infrared (IR).

From the UV point of view, these backgrounds can be interpreted as the bulk description of certain two dimensional vacua of Little String Theory (LST) that contain $N \gg 1$ fundamental strings [5, 6]. From this point of view the high energy physics is that of the underlying LST, while at low energies one approaches a CFT that is dual to the AdS_3 background corresponding to the near-horizon geometry of strings in the linear dilaton background.

From the IR point of view, these backgrounds can be thought of as irrelevant deformations of the two dimensional conformal field theories (CFT_2) dual to the above AdS_3 backgrounds by a certain universal quasi-primary operator of dimension $(2, 2)$, [1–4]. Superficially, one might think that such a description would be incomplete, since it involves flowing up the renormalization group (RG), a process that is usually ambiguous, however, we presented evidence (both worldsheet and spacetime) that in this case the situation is much better, and one can in fact flow up the RG.

In this note we will discuss the structure of spatial entanglement in these models, between an interval of length L and its complement. Since the models are non-local at short distances, we expect their entanglement entropy $S(L)$ to exhibit non field-theoretic behavior at small L . One of our main goals is to investigate this non-locality. In particular, we will be interested in the question what happens when the size of the interval, L , approaches the non-locality scale of the model.

We will also discuss the dependence of the entanglement entropy on the UV cutoff. In two dimensional QFT it is well known that $S(L)$ depends logarithmically on the cutoff, but the quantity

$$C(L) = 3L \frac{\partial S(L)}{\partial L} \tag{1.2}$$

is finite [7]. At RG fixed points it approaches a constant, equal to the Virasoro central charge. As L varies between 0 and ∞ , the entropic c -function $C(L)$ (1.2) interpolates (monotonically) between the UV and IR central charges, respectively. It is natural to ask what is the cutoff dependence of $C(L)$ in the non-local models of [1–4].

As explained in [1–4], the string theory models we will discuss are closely related to $T\bar{T}$ deformed CFT_2 , a subject that received some attention recently following the work of [8, 9]; see *e.g.* [10–18], and [19–21] for work on related systems. It is natural to ask whether the general form of the entanglement entropy in these models is similar to that found in the string backgrounds we will study. Unfortunately, it is difficult to perform the full calculation in the field theory models of [8, 9], but we will show that perturbatively in the coupling one finds a similar structure in the two cases.

The plan of this paper is the following. In section 2 we briefly review some relevant aspects of the construction of [1–4], and of previous work on entanglement entropy [22, 23]. In section 3 we compute the holographic entanglement entropy and c -function (1.2) of a line segment of length L in the models of [1–4]. We work out their behavior at large L (for the purpose of comparing to the field theory calculation), and near a critical value L_{\min} , where the c -function diverges.

In section 4 we discuss the calculation of entanglement entropy in field theory. We take as an example the theory of N complex fermions, deform it by the operator $\lambda T\bar{T}$, and compute the entanglement entropy to first non-trivial order in λ . We

find that the result is very similar to the holographic calculation. In section 5 we generalize the holographic calculation to finite temperature. In section 6 we comment on our results and discuss possible avenues for further work.

2 Review

2.1 An irrelevant deformation of AdS_3/CFT_2

The work of [1–4] was inspired by the observation [8, 9] that a particular irrelevant deformation of a generic CFT_2 by an operator bilinear in stress tensors leads to a theory with some interesting properties.

This theory appears to be well defined at high energies, despite the fact that it involves a flow up the renormalization group. Moreover, it seems to be, at least to some extent, solvable. For example, the authors of [8, 9] were able to compute the spectrum of the theory exactly. The density of states interpolates between that of a CFT_2 at low energies and one with Hagedorn growth at high energies. Thus, it is not a standard local QFT, in the sense that the high energy behavior is not governed by a UV fixed point. In supersymmetric models, the deformation preserves supersymmetry, since the deforming operator is a top component of a superfield.

If the original CFT_2 has a holographic (AdS_3) dual, the theory of [8, 9] corresponds to a double trace deformation of the original duality.¹ The main observation of [1] was that there is a single trace deformation of the CFT_2 , that shares many of the properties mentioned above. In particular, it is universal, in the sense that any CFT_2 that has an AdS_3 dual (at least one supported by NS B -field flux) contains this deformation. It is under control despite being irrelevant since it corresponds to a truly marginal deformation of the worldsheet theory,

$$\delta\mathcal{L}_{ws} = \lambda J^- \bar{J}^-, \quad (2.1)$$

where J^- is the holomorphic worldsheet $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ current whose zero mode gives rise to the boundary Virasoro generator L_{-1} , and similarly for \bar{J}^- , \bar{L}_{-1} [26]. Deforming the worldsheet theory by (2.1) corresponds to deforming the boundary CFT_2 by

$$\delta\mathcal{L} = \tilde{\lambda} D(x), \quad (2.2)$$

where $D(x)$ is a certain dimension $(2, 2)$ quasi-primary constructed in [27], and $\tilde{\lambda}$ is proportional to λ (2.1).

The deformation (2.1), (2.2) corresponds in the bulk to a deformation of the metric, dilaton and B field, from AdS_3 to a background that we will refer to as \mathcal{M}_3

¹See *e.g.* [24, 25] for discussions of double trace deformations.

(see (1.1)). It is described by [28]

$$\begin{aligned} ds^2 &= f^{-1}(-dt^2 + dx^2) + k\alpha' \frac{dU^2}{U^2}, \\ e^{2\Phi} &= \frac{g_s^2}{kU^2} f^{-1}, \\ dB &= \frac{2i}{U^2} f^{-1} \epsilon_3, \end{aligned} \tag{2.3}$$

where $f = 1 + \frac{1}{kU^2}$, and k is the level of the worldsheet $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$ current algebra of the model.

The background (2.3) interpolates between AdS_3 (with string coupling g_s) in the infrared region $U \rightarrow 0$, and a linear dilaton spacetime

$$\mathbb{R}^{1,1} \times \mathbb{R}_\phi \tag{2.4}$$

(with $\phi \sim \ln U$) in the UV region $U \rightarrow \infty$. The scale at which the geometry makes the transition between the two depends on λ (2.1); it has been set to a convenient value in (2.3), without loss of generality (see [1, 2] for a more detailed discussion of this and related issues).

The UV geometry (2.4) describes a two dimensional vacuum of Little String Theory [5]. The high energy density of states exhibits Hagedorn growth with inverse Hagedorn temperature (see *e.g.* [29] for a review)

$$\beta_H = 2\pi\sqrt{k\alpha'}. \tag{2.5}$$

One can think of the full geometry (2.3) as obtained from (2.4) by adding N fundamental strings filling $\mathbb{R}^{1,1}$ [6]. As one approaches the strings, the coupling stops growing, and saturates at a value $g_s^2 \propto 1/N$. From this perspective it is clear that if the original LST is supersymmetric (in spacetime), the deformation preserves supersymmetry, since the strings preserve some of the supersymmetry of the original LST.²

One can study the thermodynamics of the model (2.3) by analyzing black holes in \mathcal{M}_3 . This gives [1] an entropy that interpolates between a Cardy entropy with $c = 6kN$ at low energies, and Hagedorn entropy $S = \beta_H E$ at high energies.

As mentioned above, the single trace perturbation (2.1), (2.2) is different from the double trace $T\bar{T}$ deformation, which is the direct analog of [8, 9]. A useful heuristic way of thinking about the difference between the two is the following. Suppose the boundary CFT_2 corresponding to a particular string theory on AdS_3 was a symmetric product \mathcal{M}^N/S_N . Then one could consider two different deformations related to that

²An example of this construction is the near-horizon geometry of k $NS5$ -branes wrapped around a compact four dimensional manifold, *e.g.* T^4 or K_3 , which gives rise to (2.4). The background (2.3) is obtained by adding N fundamental strings stretched along the remaining $\mathbb{R}^{1,1}$.

of [8, 9] – the $T\bar{T}$ deformation of the full symmetric product, and the $T\bar{T}$ deformation of the block \mathcal{M} . The first can be thought of as a double trace deformation, while the second is a single trace one. This picture is heuristic since the boundary CFT_2 is not expected in general to be a symmetric product, though as discussed in [1–3] (following [30, 31]) there are many connections.

2.2 Entanglement entropy

In this subsection we review the results on entanglement entropy in two dimensional quantum field theory that we will use below; see *e.g.* [22, 23] for more detailed discussions.

Consider a two dimensional QFT on $\mathbb{R}^{1,1}$, in its vacuum state $|0\rangle$. The vacuum is a pure state; thus, the corresponding density matrix, $\rho = |0\rangle\langle 0|$, satisfies $\rho^2 = \rho$. We divide a spatial slice, \mathbb{R} , into two regions: $A = I_L$, an interval of length L , and B , the complement of A . The quantity of interest is the Von-Neumann entropy of the density matrix $\rho_A = \text{Tr}_B \rho$, which can be thought of as the entropy seen in the pure state $|0\rangle$ by an observer in region A that does not have access to region B .

One way to calculate it is to start with the n^{th} Renyi entropy R_n given by

$$R_n = \frac{1}{1-n} \ln \text{Tr} \rho_A^n, \quad (2.6)$$

continue the result to arbitrary (non-integer) n , and take the limit

$$S_{EE} = \lim_{n \rightarrow 1} R_n = -\frac{d}{dn} \text{Tr} \rho_A^n \Big|_{n=1} = -\rho_A \ln \text{Tr} \rho_A. \quad (2.7)$$

This is known as the replica trick.

When the two dimensional QFT is conformal, the authors of [23] have shown that the Renyi entropy (2.6) can be computed by considering the product of n copies of the CFT, constructing the lowest dimension \mathbb{Z}_n twist field S_n (where the \mathbb{Z}_n cyclically permutes the n copies), and computing the two point function

$$\text{Tr} \rho_A^n = \langle S_n(u) S_n(v) \rangle, \quad (2.8)$$

where u and v are the endpoints of the interval I_L , with $L = |u - v|$. The twist field S_n is a conformal primary of dimension³

$$\Delta(S_n) = \frac{c}{24} \left(n - \frac{1}{n} \right). \quad (2.9)$$

Its two point function is given by

$$\langle S_n(u) S_n(v) \rangle \sim \frac{1}{(u-v)^{4\Delta(S_n)}}. \quad (2.10)$$

³ c is the central charge of the original CFT .

Plugging this into (2.6), (2.7), (2.8) one finds the famous result [32]

$$S_{EE} = \frac{c}{3} \log \frac{L}{a}. \quad (2.11)$$

As mentioned above, the dependence on the UV cutoff a can be eliminated by considering the c -function $C(L)$ (1.2).

The theories we will be studying here are not conformal, so we need the generalization of the results of [23] to the case of a general QFT_2 . One can still use the construction of [23], except now the correlation function (2.8) is computed in the symmetric product of perturbed CFT 's.

In a CFT_2 with a gravity dual, one can calculate the entanglement entropy (2.7) directly by using the results of Ryu and Takayanagi [22]. The entanglement entropy is proportional to the area of the minimal surface Σ connecting the two points u and v on the boundary through the bulk at fixed time, and wrapping \mathcal{N} (1.1).

This prescription is also valid for non-conformal boundary theories, whose gravity dual is not asymptotically AdS_3 . For such theories the area functional that needs to be minimized is (see *e.g.* [33])

$$S_{EE} = \frac{1}{4G_N} \int_{\Sigma} d^8 \sigma e^{-2(\Phi - \Phi_0)} \sqrt{G}, \quad (2.12)$$

where G_N is the 10 dimensional Newton constant, σ are coordinates on the eight dimensional hypersurface Σ , Φ is the dilaton field and G is the determinant of the induced string frame metric on Σ . Just like in the QFT calculation, the holographic entanglement entropy is, in general, UV divergent. To study the dependence on the UV cutoff, one can take the radial coordinate U in (2.3) to run over the range $0 \leq U \leq U_{\max}$, and investigate the dependence of the results on U_{\max} .

3 Bulk calculation: zero temperature

3.1 Holographic entanglement entropy

In this section we calculate the entanglement entropy of string theory on $\mathcal{M}_3 \times \mathcal{N}$ (1.1), (2.3). As explained in the previous section, to do that we need to find a minimal surface connecting two points a distance L apart on the boundary of \mathcal{M}_3 (at fixed time), while wrapping all of \mathcal{N} . One can think about this minimal surface as a configuration $U = U(x)$ which has the property that as x approaches the endpoints of the interval, $x_{\text{end}} = \pm L/2$, U approaches the boundary, $U \rightarrow \infty$; between the two endpoints $U(x)$ decreases to some minimal value $U = U_0$ (which by symmetry is achieved at $x = 0$) and then goes back up to infinity.

The area functional (2.12) for $U(x)$ takes in this case the form

$$S_{EE} = \frac{\sqrt{k}}{4G_N^{(3)}} \int_{-\frac{L}{2}}^{\frac{L}{2}} dx \sqrt{\frac{(kU^2 + 1)(U^4 + \alpha'(kU^2 + 1)(\partial_x U)^2)}{U^2}}. \quad (3.1)$$

The equation of motion is

$$\frac{U^3 \sqrt{kU^2 + 1}}{\sqrt{U^4 + \alpha'(kU^2 + 1)(\partial_x U)^2}} = U_0 \sqrt{kU_0^2 + 1}, \quad (3.2)$$

with the initial conditions $U(x = 0) = U_0$ and $\partial_x U|_{x=0} = 0$. As usual in such calculations (see *e.g.* [22, 33]), the size L of the entangling region on the boundary, and the minimal value of U along the curve $U(x)$, U_0 , are related, via

$$L(U_0) = \frac{2\sqrt{\alpha'}}{U_0} \int_1^\infty dy \frac{\sqrt{kU_0^2 y^2 + 1}}{y^2 \sqrt{y^2 \left(\frac{kU_0^2 y^2 + 1}{kU_0^2 + 1}\right) - 1}}, \quad (3.3)$$

where $y = U/U_0$. The integral (3.3) is convergent in the UV (*i.e.* as $y \rightarrow \infty$), so we do not need to introduce a UV cutoff.

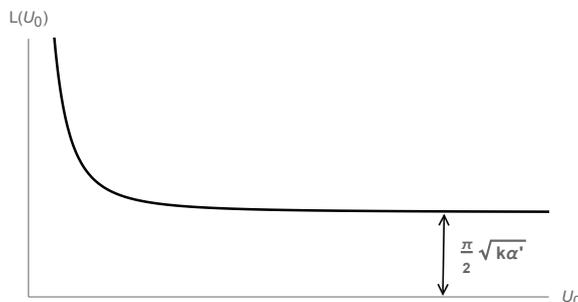


Figure 1. The size of the entangling region L as a function of U_0 in \mathcal{M}_3 .

Figure (1) shows a numerical plot of L as a function of U_0 . As $L \rightarrow \infty$, $U_0 \rightarrow 0$, so the bottom of the minimal surface is deep inside the AdS_3 region of the bulk geometry (red curve in figure (2)). In this regime, the behavior of the entanglement entropy is dominated by the AdS_3 region, in agreement with standard RG intuition.

As L decreases, U_0 increases and ultimately diverges as L approaches a minimal value $L_{\min} = \frac{\pi}{2} \sqrt{k\alpha'}$ (blue curve in figure (2)). For $L \sim L_{\min}$, the behavior of the entanglement entropy is dominated by the linear dilaton region of the geometry (2.3).

The entanglement entropy is obtained by plugging (3.2) in (3.1). One finds

$$S_{EE} = \frac{\sqrt{k\alpha'}}{2G_N^{(3)}} \int_{U_0}^{U_{\max}} \frac{dU}{U} \frac{(kU^2 + 1)}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{kU_0^2 + 1}{kU^2 + 1}\right) \frac{U_0^2}{U^2}}}. \quad (3.4)$$

The integral (3.4) is UV divergent; therefore, we introduced a UV cutoff U_{\max} , as discussed above. Evaluating the integral numerically, leads to the structure in figure (3).

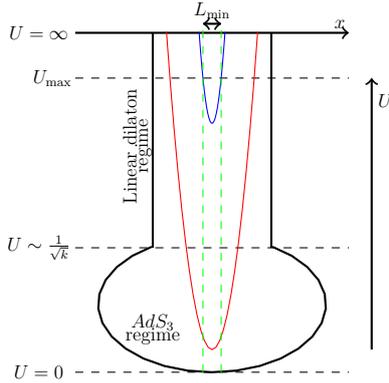


Figure 2. The background \mathcal{M}_3 gives rise at small U to AdS_3 , and at large U to a linear dilaton background. The two are smoothly connected at $U \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}}$. For large L the bottom of the minimal RT surface is deep inside the AdS_3 region (red curve), while for $L \sim L_{\min}$ it is in the linear dilaton region (blue curve). The properties of the corresponding entanglement entropy are accordingly different.

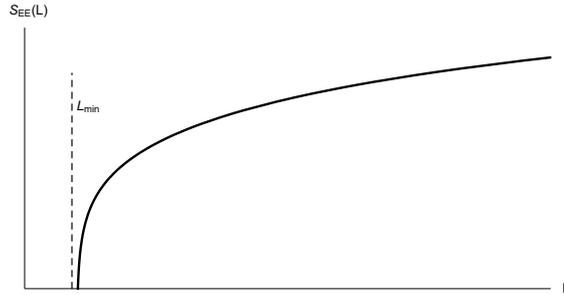


Figure 3. $S_{EE}(L)$.

3.2 Large and small L expansion of $S_{EE}(L)$

In the last subsection we found an exact expression for the entanglement entropy $S_{EE}(L)$, (3.3), (3.4). It is instructive to investigate the large and small L behavior of $S_{EE}(L)$. The main motivations for this are to understand the dependence of the entropy on the UV cutoff U_{\max} , and for comparing to field theory results.

To study the behavior for large L , we define the variables

$$\rho = \sqrt{k}U_0 \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{L} = \frac{L}{\sqrt{k}}, \quad (3.5)$$

in terms of which one has

$$\hat{L}(\rho) = \frac{2\sqrt{\alpha'}}{\rho} I(\rho) \quad I(\rho) = \int_1^\infty dy \frac{\sqrt{\rho^2 y^2 + 1}}{y^2 \sqrt{y^2 \left(\frac{\rho^2 y^2 + 1}{\rho^2 + 1} \right) - 1}}. \quad (3.6)$$

Changing variables, $z = \rho y$, one has

$$\hat{L}(\rho) = 2\sqrt{\alpha'} \int_{\rho}^{\infty} dz \frac{\sqrt{z^2 + 1}}{z^2 \sqrt{\frac{z^2(z^2+1)}{\rho^2(\rho^2+1)} - 1}}. \quad (3.7)$$

We are interested in the large L , or equivalently small U_0 , ρ expansion of this integral. For $\rho > 1$, one can write

$$\hat{L}(\rho) = \sqrt{\alpha'} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} C_n \frac{(\rho^2 + 1)^{n+\frac{1}{2}}}{\rho^{2n+1}(2n+1)} {}_2F_1 \left[n, 2n+1, 2(n+1); -\frac{1}{\rho^2} \right], \quad (3.8)$$

where the coefficients $\{C_n\}$ are defined by

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x}} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} C_n x^n \text{ for } |x| < 1. \quad (3.9)$$

Expanding (3.8) around $\rho = 0$, one obtains

$$\hat{L}(\rho) = \frac{2\sqrt{\alpha'}}{\rho} \left(1 - \frac{\rho^4}{2} \log \rho + O(\rho^4) \right). \quad (3.10)$$

The first term in the above expression is what one would obtain if the full background was AdS_3 . The higher terms are due to corrections to the background. Inverting (3.10), one gets (at large L)

$$\rho = \frac{2\sqrt{\alpha'}}{\hat{L}} + 16 \frac{\alpha'^{5/2}}{\hat{L}^5} \log \frac{\hat{L}}{\sqrt{\alpha'}}. \quad (3.11)$$

So far we discussed the form of (3.3) for large L , or equivalently small U_0 . For large U_0 (*i.e.* in the linear dilaton regime), L behaves as

$$L(U_0) = L_{\min} + \sqrt{\frac{\alpha'}{k}} \frac{1}{U_0^2} + O\left(\frac{1}{U_0^4}\right). \quad (3.12)$$

The entanglement entropy (3.4) can be analyzed in a similar way. For small U_0 , one finds

$$\begin{aligned} S_{EE} &= \left(\frac{\sqrt{k\alpha'}}{2G_N^{(3)}} \right) \left\{ \frac{1}{2} (\rho_{\max}^2 - \rho^2) + \log \left(\frac{\rho_{\max}}{\rho} \right) \right\} \\ &+ \left(\frac{\sqrt{k\alpha'}}{2G_N^{(3)}} \right) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{C_n (1 + \rho^2)^n}{2\rho^{2(n-1)}(2n-1)} {}_2F_1 \left[n-1, 2n-1, 2n, -\frac{1}{\rho^2} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (3.13)$$

where $\rho_{\max} = \sqrt{k}U_{\max}$. Expanding (3.13) in ρ , and using (3.5), one finds

$$S_{EE} = \frac{\sqrt{k\alpha'}}{2G_N^{(3)}} \left\{ \frac{kU_{\max}^2}{2} + \log \left(\frac{2U_{\max}}{U_0} \right) - \frac{kU_0^2}{4} - \frac{3}{8} k^2 U_0^4 \log(U_0) + O(U_0^4) \right\} \quad (3.14)$$

Using (3.11) we get

$$S_{EE} = \frac{c}{3} \left\{ \frac{\beta_H^2}{8\pi^2 L_\Lambda^2} + \log\left(\frac{L}{L_\Lambda}\right) - \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \left(\frac{\beta_H}{L}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{8\pi^4} \left(\frac{\beta_H}{L}\right)^4 \log\left(\frac{\beta_H}{L}\right) + O\left(\frac{\beta_H^4}{L^4}\right) \right\}, \quad (3.15)$$

where

$$L_\Lambda = \frac{\sqrt{\alpha'}}{U_{\max}} \quad (3.16)$$

is the UV cutoff, β_H is the inverse Hagedorn temperature (2.5), and c the Brown – Henneaux central charge

$$c = \frac{3\ell}{2G_N^{(3)}} = \frac{3\sqrt{k\alpha'}}{2G_N^{(3)}}. \quad (3.17)$$

In the linear dilaton regime (*i.e.* $L \rightarrow L_{\min}$, $U_0 \rightarrow \infty$), S_{EE} behaves as

$$S_{EE} = \frac{c}{6} \left\{ \frac{\beta_H^2}{4\pi^2 L_\Lambda^2} + \log\left(\frac{\beta_H(L - L_{\min})}{L_\Lambda^2}\right) + O\left((L - L_{\min})^0\right) \right\}. \quad (3.18)$$

It would be interesting to understand better the radius of convergence of the large L expansion (3.15), in analogy to what was done for correlation functions in [3]. We will leave this to future work.

3.3 Casini-Huerta c -function

From the exact expression for the entanglement entropy, (3.3), (3.4), we can compute the c -function (1.2). A numerical evaluation yields the results in figures (4), (5). Note that:

- (i) While the entanglement entropy (3.4) depends on the UV cutoff, $C(L)$ does not. As mentioned above, in a QFT governed by a UV fixed point this is necessarily the case, due to (2.11), but here the theory is non-local in the UV, and this fact is non-trivial.
- (ii) $C(L) \geq 0$, and is monotonically decreasing from the UV to the IR (*i.e.* $C'(L) \leq 0$). Thus, we see that the c -function can be generalized beyond the class of theories that approach a fixed point in the UV to the non-local theories discussed here, while preserving positivity and monotonicity.

As $L \rightarrow \infty$ (*i.e.* in the AdS_3 regime), $C(L)$ approaches a constant; $\lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} C(L) = c = 6kN$. The large L expansion of $C(L)$ is (inserting (3.15) in (1.2))

$$C(L) = c \left\{ 1 + \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \left(\frac{\beta_H}{L}\right)^2 + \frac{1}{2\pi^4} \left(\frac{\beta_H}{L}\right)^4 \log\left(\frac{L}{\beta_H}\right) + O\left(\left(\frac{\beta_H}{L}\right)^4\right) \right\}. \quad (3.19)$$

As $L \rightarrow L_{\min}$ (*i.e.* in the linear dilaton regime), $C(L)$ diverges as

$$C(L) = \frac{c}{2} \left(\frac{L_{\min}}{L - L_{\min}} \right) + O\left((L - L_{\min})^0\right). \quad (3.20)$$

This divergence is due to the fact that LST has a Hagedorn density of states. Indeed, in [33] it was shown that in a theory whose spectrum contains a Hagedorn density of non-interacting states, the entanglement entropy diverges as L approaches $\beta_H/2$ (see also [34]). In our case, the divergence happens at $L_{\min} = \beta_H/4$. The difference of a factor of two is likely due to the fact that here, unlike in [33], the theory is strongly coupled.

Another difference between our analysis here and that of [33] is that there the divergence was related to a jump of the entanglement entropy from order one to order N^2 (in a large N gauge theory), or in the language of a holographic string dual from an entropy of order one to order $1/g_s^2$. Here, the divergence is visible in leading order in g_s . This can be understood from the point of view of the heuristic model mentioned at the end of section 2.1. It is due to the fact that we are dealing with a $T\bar{T}$ deformation of the block \mathcal{M} in a symmetric product \mathcal{M}^N/S_N , so the analog of the discussion of [33] is visible to leading order in $1/N$.

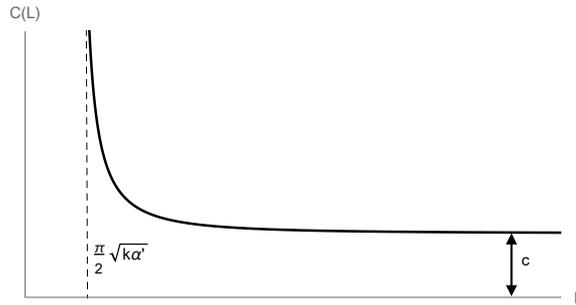


Figure 4. $C(L)$.

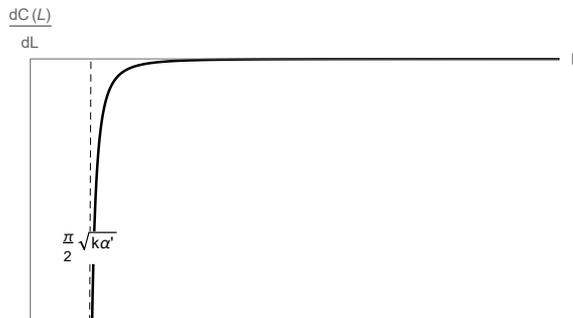


Figure 5. $C'(L)$.

4 Field theory calculation

In this section we will discuss the entanglement entropy of an interval I_L (see section 2.2) in $T\bar{T}$ deformed CFT_2 . The main motivation is to compare it to the string theory results of the previous section, particularly the large L expansion (3.15), (3.19).

We will consider a specific class of examples,⁴ the theory of N complex left and right-moving fermions, with $c = \bar{c} = N$. We start by reviewing the CFT calculation in the formalism of [23], and then calculate the leading correction to the CFT result (2.11) in the $T\bar{T}$ deformed CFT_2 .

4.1 Renyi entropy of N complex fermions

As reviewed in section 2.2, to calculate the entanglement entropy of a CFT_2 using the replica trick, we start with n copies of the CFT , and construct the \mathbb{Z}_n twist field S_n . In our case, the original CFT contains the complex left-moving fermions ψ^α , $\alpha = 1, 2, \dots, N$, and their right-moving counterparts $\bar{\psi}^\alpha$, and taking n copies of it leads to fermions $\psi_i^\alpha, \bar{\psi}_i^\alpha$, with i the replica index, $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$. The action of the \mathbb{Z}_n generator \mathcal{T} on the fermions is⁵

$$\mathcal{T} : \psi_i^\alpha \rightarrow \psi_{i+1}^\alpha . \quad (4.1)$$

The fermions satisfy the following ‘‘periodicity condition’’ in i : $\psi_{i+n}^\alpha = (-)^{n-1} \psi_i^\alpha$.

After diagonalizing the action of \mathbb{Z}_n on the fermions (4.1) by a discrete Fourier transform,

$$\tilde{\psi}_k^\alpha = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \sum_{j=1}^n \psi_j^\alpha e^{2\pi i j \frac{(k-\frac{1}{2}(n-1))}{n}}, \quad k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1, \quad (4.2)$$

we find

$$\mathcal{T} : \tilde{\psi}_k^\alpha \rightarrow \tilde{\psi}_k^\alpha e^{-\frac{2\pi i}{n} (k-\frac{1}{2}(n-1))}. \quad (4.3)$$

The twist operator that implements the transformation (4.3) for a particular α is

$$S_n^\alpha = \prod_{k=0}^{n-1} s_k^\alpha, \quad (4.4)$$

where s_k^α is the twist field acting on $\tilde{\psi}_k^\alpha$. A simple way to construct it is to bosonize the fermions $\tilde{\psi}$, by writing them as

$$\tilde{\psi}_k^\alpha = e^{iH_k^\alpha}, \quad (4.5)$$

⁴We expect the results of this section to depend only on the central charge of the original CFT, so one can consider any theory with the right central charge.

⁵From here we discuss the left-moving sector only. There is an analogous story for the right-movers.

where H_k^α is a canonically normalized scalar field, $\langle H(z)H(w) \rangle = -\ln(z-w)$. Then we have

$$s_k^\alpha = e^{\frac{i}{n}(k-\frac{1}{2}(n-1))H_k^\alpha} . \quad (4.6)$$

The scaling dimension of s_k^α is

$$\Delta(s_k^\alpha) = \frac{1}{2n^2} \left(k - \frac{(n-1)}{2} \right)^2 . \quad (4.7)$$

Thus, the scaling dimension of the twist operator S_n^α (4.4) is given by

$$\Delta(S_n^\alpha) = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \Delta(s_k^\alpha) = \frac{1}{24} \left(n - \frac{1}{n} \right) , \quad (4.8)$$

and for the total spin field, $S_n = \prod_{\alpha=1}^N S_n^\alpha$, we have

$$\Delta(S_n) = \Delta_n = \frac{c}{24} \left(n - \frac{1}{n} \right) , \quad (4.9)$$

with $c = N$, in agreement with (2.9).

4.2 Order λ correction to Renyi entropy

We now turn on the $T\bar{T}$ deformation in the original CFT of N fermions, which corresponds to turning on the deformation

$$\delta\mathcal{L} = \lambda \sum_{l=1}^n T_l \bar{T}_l \quad (4.10)$$

in the product of n CFT 's. To compute the entanglement entropy, we need to evaluate the two point function (2.8) in the deformed theory (4.10). To first order in λ , we have

$$\langle S_n(x)S_n(0) \rangle_\lambda = \frac{1}{|x|^{4\Delta_n}} - \lambda \sum_{l=1}^n \int d^2z \left\langle T_l(z)\bar{T}_l(\bar{z})S_n(x)S_n(0) \right\rangle_0 + O(\lambda^2) . \quad (4.11)$$

Conformal invariance of the theory with $\lambda = 0$ implies that the three point function in (4.11) has the form

$$\sum_{l=1}^n \left\langle T_l(z)\bar{T}_l(\bar{z})S_n(x)S_n(0) \right\rangle_{\lambda=0} = \frac{C_n}{|z|^4|x-z|^4|x|^{4(\Delta_n-1)}} . \quad (4.12)$$

where C_n is a constant to be determined.

To compute this constant, one rewrites the operator $\sum_{l=1}^n T_l \bar{T}_l$ in terms of the fermions $\psi, \bar{\psi}$,

$$\sum_{l=1}^n T_l \bar{T}_l = \sum_{l=1}^n \sum_{\alpha,\beta=1}^N \psi_l^{*\alpha} \partial \psi_l^\alpha \bar{\psi}_l^{*\beta} \bar{\partial} \psi_l^\beta . \quad (4.13)$$

In terms of the Fourier transformed fermions $\tilde{\psi}$, (4.13) takes the form

$$\sum_{l=1}^n T_l \bar{T}_l = \sum_{k_1, \dots, k_4=1}^n \sum_{\alpha, \beta=1}^N \tilde{\psi}_{k_1}^{*\alpha} \partial \tilde{\psi}_{k_2}^{\alpha} \tilde{\psi}_{k_3}^{*\beta} \partial \tilde{\psi}_{k_4}^{\beta} \delta_{k_1 - k_2 + k_3 - k_4, 0}. \quad (4.14)$$

Inserting (4.14) into (4.12), we find that the only terms that contribute to the three point function are the ones with $k_1 = k_2$ and $k_3 = k_4$. Restricting to these terms, (4.14) takes the form $T_{\text{tot}} \bar{T}_{\text{tot}}$, where $T_{\text{tot}} = \sum_l T_l$, and similarly for \bar{T} . Therefore, the constant C_n in (4.12) can be determined from the stress tensor Ward identity to be

$$C_n = \Delta_n^2, \quad (4.15)$$

with Δ_n given by (4.9).

Plugging (4.12), (4.15) into (4.11), we find that the order λ correction to the two point function of S_n is proportional to

$$\sim \int d^2 z \frac{\Delta_n^2}{|z-x|^4 |z|^4 |x|^{4\Delta_n-4}} \sim \frac{\Delta_n^2}{|x|^{4\Delta_n+2}} \ln(|x|\Lambda), \quad (4.16)$$

where Λ is the UV cutoff, and we omitted an overall multiplicative constant.

The result (4.16) together with (4.11) determines the Renyi entropy (2.6), (2.8) to order λ . To calculate the entanglement entropy S_{EE} , we need to divide by $n-1$ and take the limit $n \rightarrow 1$ (2.7). Since Δ_n goes to zero like $n-1$, the order λ contribution to S_{EE} vanishes.

It is interesting to compare the field theory analysis to the string theory results of the previous section, (3.15). In the field theory analysis, the expansion parameter is $\lambda/|x|^2$, which is the same as the string theory expansion parameter $(\beta_H/L)^2$. Thus, in the notation of section 3, we found in the field theory analysis that while the Renyi entropy receives a correction of the form $(\beta_H/L)^2 \ln L$, the coefficient of this term in the entanglement entropy vanishes. This term is also absent in the expansion of the string theory result (3.15).

Of course, it is important to stress that these two calculations are done in different theories, as reviewed earlier in the paper. However, as we also mentioned, the two theories are closely related, and the calculation of the entanglement entropy provides one more example of this. It would be interesting to generalize the string theory calculation to that of the Renyi entropy (*e.g.* using the results of [35]), and check whether the agreement of the coefficient of this term persists for that case.

In the string theory analysis (3.15), we found that while the $(\beta_H/L)^2 \ln L$ term in the expansion was absent, there was a contribution of order $(\beta_H/L)^2$. It is natural to ask what is the origin of this contribution in the field theory expansion. One way it can arise is from contact terms. When evaluating (4.11) we used the three point function at separated points (4.12). However, the integral over z in (4.11) is also sensitive to contact terms. For example, we can introduce the contact term

$$\sum_{l=1}^n T_l(z) \bar{T}_l(\bar{z}) S_n(0) = A_n \delta^2(z) \partial \bar{\partial} S_n(0). \quad (4.17)$$

Adding this to the calculation (4.11) leads to a term that goes like $(\beta_H/L)^2$ in (3.15), with a coefficient that depends on the behavior of A_n as $n \rightarrow 1$. The coefficient A_n is not determined by standard CFT data. It has to do with the geometry of the space of field theories (see *e.g.* [36]), and can be chosen at will. In particular, we can choose it to reproduce the result of the string theory calculation.⁶

5 Bulk calculation: finite temperature

In this section we generalize the analysis of section 3 to finite temperature. To do this we replace the geometry (2.3) by a black hole in \mathcal{M}_3 ,

$$\begin{aligned} ds^2 &= -\frac{f_1}{f} dt^2 + \frac{1}{f} dx^2 + k\alpha' f_1^{-1} \frac{dU^2}{U^2}, \\ e^{2\Phi} &= \frac{g_s^2}{kU^2} f^{-1}, \\ dB &= \frac{2i}{U^2} f^{-1} \epsilon_3, \end{aligned} \tag{5.1}$$

where $f = 1 + \frac{1}{kU^2}$ and $f_1 = 1 - \frac{U_T^2}{U^2}$. The location of the horizon, U_T , is related to the temperature via:

$$T = \frac{1}{2\pi} \sqrt{\frac{U_T^2}{\alpha'(1 + kU_T^2)}}. \tag{5.2}$$

When $\sqrt{k}U_T \ll 1$, the horizon is deep inside the AdS_3 region in \mathcal{M}_3 , and is described to a good approximation by the BTZ black hole. When $\sqrt{k}U_T \gg 1$, the horizon is deep inside the linear dilaton regime and the solution is described by the coset $\frac{SL(2, \mathbf{R}) \times U(1)}{U(1)}$ (see *e.g.* [31]).

5.1 Holographic entanglement entropy

Writing down the area functional (2.12) for a surface $U = U(x)$ in the geometry (5.1) gives rise to the equation of motion

$$\frac{U^2 \sqrt{U^2 - U_T^2} \sqrt{kU^2 + 1}}{\sqrt{U^2(U^2 - U_T^2) + \alpha'(kU^2 + 1)} (\partial_x U)^2} = U_0 \sqrt{kU_0^2 + 1}, \tag{5.3}$$

with the initial condition that $U(x=0) = U_0 > U_T$ and $\partial_x U|_{x=0} = 0$. As in the zero temperature case, (3.3), the size of the line segment on the boundary, L , is related

⁶In the bulk, the ambiguity related to the contact term (4.17) corresponds to the ambiguity of redefining the UV cutoff; the two terms that go like β_H^2 in (3.15) can mix by replacing the UV cutoff U_{\max}^2 with $U_{\max}^2 + \frac{\text{constant}}{L^2}$.

to U_0 via

$$L(U_0) = \frac{2\sqrt{\alpha'}}{U_0} \int_1^\infty dy \frac{\sqrt{kU_0^2 y^2 + 1}}{\sqrt{y^2 \left(y^2 - \frac{U_T^2}{U_0^2}\right) \sqrt{y^2 \left(\frac{kU_0^2 y^2 + 1}{kU_0^2 + 1}\right) - 1}}} . \quad (5.4)$$

The integral is again convergent in the UV and one does not need to introduce a UV cutoff. Figure (6) shows a numerical plot of L as a function of U_0 . The profile does not change much as we take U_T continuously from the AdS_3 region to the linear dilaton one. The IR and UV behaviors of $L(U_0)$ are similar to those found for $T = 0$ in section 3, except now U_0 is bounded from below by U_T .

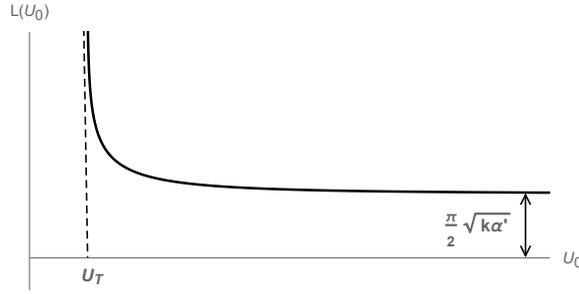


Figure 6. The size of the entangling region L as a function of U_0 in the background (5.1).

The entanglement entropy is given by

$$S_{EE} = \frac{\sqrt{k\alpha'}}{2G_N^{(3)}} \int_{U_0}^{U_{\max}} \frac{dU}{U} \frac{U^2(kU^2 + 1)}{\sqrt{U^2(U^2 - U_T^2) \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{kU_0^2 + 1}{kU^2 + 1}\right) \frac{U_0^2}{U^2}}} . \quad (5.5)$$

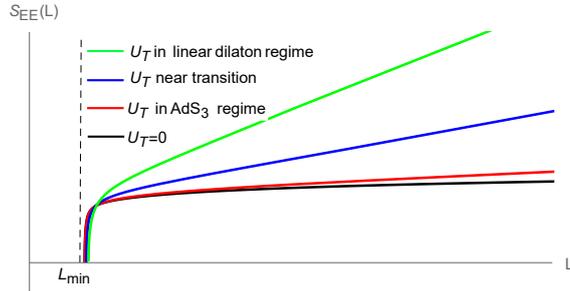


Figure 7. The entanglement entropy S_{EE} as a function of L in \mathcal{M}_3 at finite temperature for different horizon radii ranging from the AdS_3 regime to the linear dilaton regime.

Figure (7) shows a numerical plot of S_{EE} as a function of L for different values of U_T .

5.2 Large and small L expansion of entanglement entropy

As in the zero temperature case, we can investigate the large and small L behavior of the entanglement entropy in the background (5.1). For large U_0 , L behaves as

$$L(U_0) = \frac{\pi}{2} \sqrt{k\alpha'} + \sqrt{\frac{\alpha'}{k} \frac{(2 + kU_T^2)}{2U_0^2}} + O\left(\frac{1}{U_0^4}\right). \quad (5.6)$$

As expected, in the limit $U_0 \rightarrow \infty$, L approaches the same constant value ($L = L_{\min} = \frac{\pi}{2} \sqrt{k\alpha'}$) as in the case of zero temperature.

When the horizon is deep inside the AdS_3 region, and the RT surface is hanging deep in the bulk, one gets

$$L = \frac{2\sqrt{\alpha'}}{U_T} \tanh^{-1}\left(\frac{U_T}{U_0}\right) + \text{sub-leading terms}. \quad (5.7)$$

When the horizon is deep inside the AdS_3 regime, with U_0 very close to the horizon, the entanglement entropy takes the form

$$S_{EE} \sim \frac{c}{3} \left\{ \frac{\beta_H^2}{8\pi^2 L_\Lambda^2} + \log \left[\frac{\beta_H}{L_\Lambda} \sinh \left(\frac{\pi L \rho_T}{\beta_H} \right) \right] \right\}, \quad (5.8)$$

where $\rho_T = \sqrt{k}U_T$. To obtain this result, we have used the fact that $\sqrt{k}U_{\max} \gg \rho_T, \rho_0$.

In the limit $U_0 \rightarrow \infty$, S_{EE} behaves as

$$S_{EE} = \frac{c}{6} \left\{ \frac{\beta_H^2}{4\pi^2 L_\Lambda^2} + \frac{(2 + \rho_T^2)}{2} \log \left(\frac{\beta_H}{L_\Lambda^2} (L - L_{\min}) \right) + O\left((L - L_{\min})^0\right) \right\}. \quad (5.9)$$

6 Discussion

The main goal of this note was to study the entanglement entropy of an interval of length L in the models discussed in [1–3]. In particular, we were interested in the consequences of non-locality of these models for this observable, and in comparing its properties to that of the closely related $T\bar{T}$ deformed CFT_2 .

We found that the entropic c -function (1.2) has the following properties in these models:

- (i) It is independent of the UV cutoff, just like in local QFT.
- (ii) It is monotonically decreasing along the RG (*i.e.* $C'(L) < 0$), just like in local QFT.
- (iii) Unlike local QFT, where the c -function goes to a constant in the UV limit $L \rightarrow 0$ (equal to the central charge of the UV fixed point), in the models of [1–3] the c -function is not bounded from above; in fact it diverges as $L \rightarrow L_{\min}$, where $L_{\min} = \frac{\pi}{2} \sqrt{k\alpha'}$ (see figure (4)).

- (iv) The large L expansion of the entanglement entropy has a similar structure to that of $T\bar{T}$ deformed CFT_2 .

While our results showed agreement between the string theory analysis of the models of [1–3] and $T\bar{T}$ deformed CFT_2 , we would like to mention a case where the two seem to disagree. In the recent paper [14], Cardy discussed the entanglement entropy of a half line in a massive QFT_2 with mass parameter m in the presence of a $\lambda T\bar{T}$ deformation.⁷ His result, to first order in the dimensionless parameter λm^2 , has the form

$$S_{EE} = \frac{c}{6} \log \frac{1}{ma} - \frac{c^2 \lambda m^2}{72\pi} (\log(am))^2 + O(\lambda^2 m^4 \log am). \quad (6.1)$$

One can perform the same calculation in the models of [1–3]. For $\lambda = 0$, this was discussed in [22]. The mass parameter is introduced by taking the radial coordinate in AdS_3 to be bounded from below, $U \geq U_{\min}$. The entanglement entropy of the half line is obtained by calculating the length of the line labeled by U at a given value of the spatial coordinate x . This gives

$$S_{EE} = \frac{c}{6} \ln \frac{U_{\max}}{U_{\min}} = \frac{c}{6} \ln \frac{\xi}{L_\Lambda}, \quad (6.2)$$

where $\xi = \frac{\sqrt{k\alpha'}}{U_{\min}}$ is the correlation length of the boundary field theory.

It is easy to generalize the calculation to non-zero λ , by calculating the length of the above line in \mathcal{M}_3 rather than AdS_3 . This gives

$$S_{EE} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\sqrt{k\alpha'}}{2G_N^{(3)}} \right) \int_{U_{\min}}^{U_{\max}} \frac{dU}{U} (kU^2 + 1) = \frac{c}{6} \left\{ \log \frac{\xi}{L_\Lambda} + \frac{k\alpha'}{2} \left(\frac{1}{L_\Lambda^2} - \frac{1}{\xi^2} \right) \right\}. \quad (6.3)$$

Comparing this to the result of [14], (6.1), with $m = 1/\xi$, $a = L_\Lambda$, we see that the term that goes like $\lambda m^2 \ln^2(am)$ in (6.1) is absent in (6.3). It would be interesting to understand the origin of the discrepancy between the two calculations.

It would also be interesting to generalize the calculation of section 4 to higher orders in λ , and compare to the exact results of section 3. Another closely related calculation that would be interesting to do is that of Wilson lines in the geometry \mathcal{M}_3 .

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⁷After the publication of the original version of the current paper, [14] was revised. The new versions do not contain this result.

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