Finite momentum at string endpoints

(with application to a non-equilibrium phenomenon in AdS_5)

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1. Finite endpoint momentum

1.1. Why do we need it?

A highly successful phenomenological account of fragmentation (Lund model) starts with energetic quarks moving apart while linked by a string: the "yo-yo" [Andersson et al, 1983; Artru, 1983]. Earlier work goes back to [Bardeen et al, 1976].



- When $g_{\text{str}} = 0$, all that can happen is that the massless quark and anti-quark oscillate in a linear potential. $g_{\text{str}} \neq 0$ allows for fragmentation events.
- Initial energy is *entirely* in q and \overline{q} . Sometime later, it's entirely in the string.

To account for the medium in a heavy ion collision, a related strategy was pursued in AdS_5 -Schwarzschild: [Chesler et al, 0804.3110], similar to [Gubser et al, 0803.1470].



Standard boundary conditions were applied: $\partial_{\sigma} X^{\mu} = 0$.

Initial state is a short string intended to reflect state of a quark-anti-quark pair produced in an energetic scattering event.

It would be more faithful to the Lund model to have finite momentum at the string endpoints.

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To see why finite endpoint momentum makes sense for classical strings, consider an interpolation between Regge and the yo-yo:

$$X^{\mu}(\tau,\sigma) = \frac{1}{2}Y^{\mu}(\tau-\sigma) + \frac{1}{2}Y^{\mu}(\tau+\sigma).$$
 (1)

where



Regge case is $\ell_1 = \ell_2$, and then $X^0 = \tau$.

Yo-yo is $\ell_2 = 0$, but now $X^0(\tau, \sigma)$ is complicated because $\dot{Y}^0 = \ell_1 |\sin \xi|$. Observe $X^{\mu}(\tau, 0) = Y^{\mu}(\tau)$: endpoint prescribes entire motion of string. The mapping $(\tau, \sigma) \to (X^0, X^1)$ is partially degenerate when $\ell_2 = 0$: a finite region maps to the edge of the string.



More transparent would be to use a static gauge, $X^0 = t$ and $X^1 = x$, and allow each endpoint to carry $E_{\text{endpoint}} = t/(2\pi\alpha')$, so that

$$E_{\text{total}} = \frac{2\ell_1 - 2t}{2\pi\alpha'} + 2 \times \frac{t}{2\pi\alpha'} = \frac{2\ell_1}{2\pi\alpha'}.$$
(3)

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1.2. Endpoints follow geodesics

Now I want to argue that endpoint trajectories naturally follow spacetime geodesics when the endpoint momentum is non-vanishing. Argument proceeds in three steps: Step 1: Formulate an action that includes finite endpoint momentum.

$$S = -\frac{1}{4\pi\alpha'} \int_M d\tau d\sigma \sqrt{-h} h^{ab} \partial_a X^\mu \partial_b X^\nu G_{\mu\nu} + \int_{\partial M} d\xi \frac{1}{2\eta} \dot{X}^\mu \dot{X}^\nu G_{\mu\nu} \,, \quad (4)$$

where η is the einbein on the edge of the worldsheet.

Step 2: Formulate eom's in terms of endpoint momenta and bulk momentum density.

$$P^{a}_{\mu} = -\frac{1}{2\pi\alpha'}\sqrt{-h}h^{ab}G_{\mu\nu}\partial_{b}X^{\nu}$$
$$p_{\mu} = \frac{1}{\eta}G_{\mu\nu}\dot{X}^{\nu}$$

bulk momentum density endpoint momentum

$$\partial_a P^a_\mu - \Gamma^{\kappa}_{\mu\lambda} \partial_a X^{\lambda} P^a_{\kappa} = 0$$
$$\dot{p}_\mu - \Gamma^{\kappa}_{\mu\lambda} \dot{X}^{\lambda} p_{\kappa} = \dot{\sigma}^a \epsilon_{ab} P^b_\mu$$

bulk conservation of momentum boundary loses/gains energy from bulk (6)

(5)

Step 3: Manipulate endpoint equations in a conformal gauge.

Use a metric where $\sqrt{-h}h^{ab} = \text{diag}\{-1, 1\}$. Then I claim

$$\dot{\sigma}^a \epsilon_{ab} P^b_\mu \pm \frac{\eta}{2\pi\alpha'} p_\mu = 0.$$
⁽⁷⁾

or, equivalently,

$$(\epsilon_{ab}\sqrt{-h}h^{bc} \mp \delta^c_a)\dot{\sigma}^a\partial_c X^\nu = 0.$$
(8)

This is because $M_a{}^c \equiv \epsilon_{ab}\sqrt{-h}h^{bc}$ has eigenvectors $(1, \pm 1)$; and along the worldsheet boundary, we have $\dot{\sigma}^a \propto (1, \pm 1)$.

So

$$\dot{p}_{\mu} - \Gamma^{\kappa}_{\mu\lambda} \dot{X}^{\lambda} p_{\kappa} = \mp \frac{\eta}{2\pi\alpha'} p_{\mu} \,, \tag{9}$$

where we take – when the string endpoint is "unrolling."

We can now see that endpoint moves along a geodesic:

$$\dot{\tilde{p}}_{\mu} - \Gamma^{\kappa}_{\mu\lambda} \dot{X}^{\lambda} \tilde{p}_{\kappa} = 0$$
 where $\tilde{p}_{\mu} = \frac{1}{\tilde{\eta}} G_{\mu\nu} \dot{X}^{\nu}$. (10)

1.3. Doubled strings in AdS_5

Yo-yo generalizes easily to global AdS_5 , most simply as a doubled string.

$$ds_5^2 = L^2 \left(-\cosh^2 \rho \, d\tau^2 + d\rho^2 + \sinh^2 \rho \, d\Omega_3^2 \right) \,, \tag{11}$$

and we embed string into an AdS_2 submanifold:

$$ds_2^2 = L^2 \left(-\cosh^2 \rho \, d\tau^2 + d\rho^2 \right)$$
 (12)

with endpoint trajectory determined by

$$\tan\frac{\tau}{2} = \tanh\frac{\rho}{2}.$$
 (13)

The endpoint energy is

$$p_{\tau} = -\frac{EL}{2} + \frac{L^2}{\pi \alpha'} \sinh \rho \,. \tag{14}$$

so snapback occurs at $\rho_* = \sinh^{-1} \left(\frac{\pi \alpha'}{2L} E \right)$.

What is dual operator? Propose

$$\mathcal{O} = \operatorname{tr} X^{I} (\nabla_{1})^{S} X^{I} , \qquad (15)$$

in same multiplet as the operators $\operatorname{tr} X^{I} (\nabla_{2} + i \nabla_{3})^{S} X^{I}$ dual to Regge strings.

1.4. Lightcone Green-Schwarz action

Lightcone Green-Schwarz formalism accommodates finite endpoint momentum in an interesting way.

The claim is $S = S_{\text{bulk}} + S_{\text{bdy}}$ where, after requiring $X^+ = \pi q^+ \tau$ and $\Gamma^+ \theta = 0$, we write (with $\alpha' = 1/2$ and assuming a boundary at $\sigma^- = \text{constant}$)

$$S_{\text{bulk}} = \int_{M} d^{2}\sigma \left[-\frac{1}{2\pi} \eta^{ab} \partial_{a} X^{i} \partial_{b} X^{i} + iq^{+} \bar{\theta} \Gamma^{-} \rho^{a} \partial_{a} \theta \right]$$
(16)

$$S_{\rm bdy} = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\partial M} d\xi \, \frac{1}{\eta} \left[\dot{X}_i^2 + 2\pi i q^+ \bar{\theta} \rho^- \Gamma^- \dot{\theta} \right] \,, \tag{17}$$

where ρ^{α} are worldsheet gamma matrices and $\bar{\theta}^{Aa} \equiv \theta^{Bb} \Gamma^0_{AB} \rho^0_{ab}$.

 S_{bdy} is *not* the light-cone superparticle, which would involve ρ^{τ} not ρ^{-} , and would be supersymmetric by itself.

The supersymmetry variations are

$$\delta X^{i} = 2\bar{\theta}\Gamma^{i}\epsilon \qquad \delta\theta = \frac{1}{2\pi i q^{+}}\Gamma^{+}\Gamma^{i}\rho^{a}\partial_{a}X^{i}\epsilon \,. \tag{18}$$

A straightforward calculation leads to

$$\delta S_{\text{bulk}} = \int_{M} d^{2}\sigma \,\partial_{a} \left[\frac{1}{\pi} \bar{\theta} \rho^{b} \rho^{a} \Gamma^{i} \partial_{b} X^{i} \epsilon \right] \,. \tag{19}$$

The standard setup is to require $\partial_{\sigma} X^i = 0$ at a boundary $\sigma = 0$: then

$$\delta S_{\text{bulk}} = \int_{\partial M} d\xi \, \frac{1}{\pi} \bar{\theta} \rho_3 \Gamma^i \dot{X}^i \epsilon \quad \text{where} \quad \xi = \tau \quad \text{and} \quad \rho_3 = \rho^\tau \rho^\sigma \,; \quad (20)$$

and by requiring

$$\theta = -i\rho^{\sigma}\theta \qquad \epsilon = i\rho^{\sigma}\epsilon$$
 (21)

we get $\delta S_{\text{bulk}} = 0$.

Life is not so simple for a null boundary, say at $\sigma^- = 0$: Now

$$\delta S_{\text{bulk}} = -\int_{\partial M} d\xi \, \frac{1}{\pi} \bar{\theta} \rho^+ \rho^- \dot{X}^i \Gamma^i \epsilon = -\int_{\partial M} d\xi \, \frac{1}{\pi} \bar{\theta} (1-\rho_3) \dot{X}^i \Gamma^i \epsilon \tag{22}$$

and we need boundary term to cancel this non-vanishing variation from the bulk. First trick: Computation of p^+ and use of eom for \dot{p}^+ leads to

$$\frac{d}{d\xi}\left(\frac{1}{\eta}\right) = -\frac{1}{\pi} \quad \text{where} \quad \xi = \sigma^+ = \frac{\tau + \sigma}{\sqrt{2}}.$$
(23)

Second trick: $\delta\theta$ contains $\rho^a \partial_a X^i$, but because we only use $\rho^- \delta\theta$ on boundary, we only need $\rho^+ \partial_+ X^i = \rho^+ \dot{X}^i$.

Now we just need a couple of partial integrations wrt ξ to get

$$\delta S_{\rm bdy} = \int_{\partial M} d\xi \, \left[\frac{2}{\eta} \bar{\theta} \rho_3 \ddot{X}^i \Gamma^i \epsilon + \frac{1}{\pi} \bar{\theta} (1 - \rho_3) \dot{X}^i \Gamma^i \epsilon \right] \,. \tag{24}$$

Red term cancels δS_{bulk} , and remaining term vanishes using (21).

Interesting questions remain:

- Could we have gotten boundary term from bulk GS action using a non-injective worldsheet embedding?
- What is the covariant, kappa symmetric action with boundary term?
- Could we consider localized momentum more generally on higher branes?

2. Application to light quark energy loss

Single quark setup: [Gubser et al, 0803.1470]



If a string starts at t = 0 with one end through the horizon and the other on a flavor brane, how far can it get before it falls through the horizon?

There's a big range of choice of initial conditions.

$$\Delta x_{\text{stop}} \lesssim \kappa \frac{E^{1/3}}{\lambda^{1/6}T^{4/3}}$$
 with an estimate $\kappa \in (0.35, 0.41)$.

Dissociating meson setup: [Chesler et al, 0804.3110]



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Our plan:

- Show how $\kappa = 0.526 = \frac{2^{1/3}}{\sqrt{\pi}} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{5}{4})}{\Gamma(\frac{3}{4})}$ comes out of spacetime geodesics plus a slightly tricky accounting of initial energy.
- Show how finite endpoint momentum gives $\kappa = 0.624$.
- Show how single quark can approach $\kappa = 0.990$.
- Propose a new account of instantaneous energy loss based on endpoint \dot{p}_{μ} .

2.1. No endpoint momentum

When a string has a lot of momentum in x^1 direction, it quickly settles into a segment of trailing string with velocity $v = \sqrt{f(z_*)}$, where AdS_5 -Schwarzschild metric is

$$ds^{2} = \frac{L^{2}}{z^{2}} \left(-f(z)dt^{2} + d\vec{x}^{2} + \frac{dz^{2}}{f(z)} \right) \quad \text{with} \quad f(z) = 1 - \frac{z^{4}}{z_{H}^{4}}.$$
 (25)

So we evaluate energy (half the total energy of the meson) as

$$E_* = \frac{L^2}{2\pi\alpha'} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-v^2}} \left[\frac{1}{z_*} - \frac{1}{z_H} \right] + \frac{1}{v} \frac{dE}{dt} \Delta x(z_*, z_H) \approx \frac{L^2}{2\pi\alpha'} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-v^2}} \frac{1}{z_*} .$$
 (26)

The endpoint subsequently stays *close* to a null geodesic, which is a solution to

$$\frac{dx_{\text{geo}}}{dz} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{f(z_*) - f(z)}} = \frac{z_H^2}{\sqrt{z^4 - z_*^4}}.$$
(27)

So we find Δx_{stop} by intersecting geodesic with horizon:

$$\Delta x_{\text{stop}} = \frac{z_H^2}{z_*} \frac{\sqrt{\pi} \Gamma(\frac{5}{4})}{\Gamma(\frac{3}{4})} - {}_2F_1\left(\frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{5}{4}, \frac{z_*^4}{z_H^4}\right) z_H , \qquad (28)$$

and in the high-energy limit where $z_* \ll z_H$

$$\Delta x_{\text{stop}} = \frac{2^{1/3}}{\sqrt{\pi}} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{5}{4}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)} \frac{1}{T} \left(\frac{E_*}{\sqrt{\lambda}T}\right)^{1/3} , \qquad (29)$$

2.2. Including endpoint momentum

Following spirit of Lund, assign all energy to the endpoints initially. Also require $E_{\text{endpoint}} \rightarrow 0$ just as string crosses horizon.

Calculate evolution of $E_{\text{endpoint}} = -p_t$ using

$$\dot{p}_t = -\frac{\eta}{2\pi\alpha'} p_t = \frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{2\pi} \frac{f}{z^2} \frac{dt}{dz} \,. \tag{30}$$

Arrive at

$$E_* \approx \frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{2\sqrt{\pi}} \frac{\sqrt{\pi} \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)} \frac{z_H^2}{z_*^3} \sqrt{f(z_*)} \,. \tag{31}$$

The same spacetime geodesic calculation as before now leads to

$$\Delta x_{\rm stop} = \frac{2^{1/3}}{\pi^{2/3}} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{5}{4}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^{1/3}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^{4/3}} \frac{1}{T} \left(\frac{E_*}{\sqrt{\lambda}T}\right)^{1/3} = \frac{0.624}{T} \left(\frac{E_*}{\sqrt{\lambda}T}\right)^{1/3}, \qquad (32)$$

as before with $z_* \ll z_H$.

Only the energy calculation changed.

One can numerically determine the shape of the bulk of the string:



String goes further because we budgeted initial energy differently: no initial downward motion, only longitudinally outward.

2.3. Single quarks and instantaneous energy loss

How far a string can go if one end passes through the horizon and total energy E outside horizon is fixed?

Argument from spacetime geodesics is now familiar: start near the horizon moving upward; require $E_{\text{endpoint}} \rightarrow 0$ only when we fall completely into the horizon; and use \dot{p}_{μ} equation to evolve E_{endpoint} along endpoint geodesic. Answer:

$$\Delta x_{\rm stop} = \frac{2}{\pi^{2/3}} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{5}{4}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)^{1/3}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^{4/3}} \frac{1}{T} \left(\frac{E}{\sqrt{\lambda}T}\right)^{1/3} = \frac{0.990}{T} \left(\frac{E}{\sqrt{\lambda}T}\right)^{1/3}$$
(33)

To find motion of the bulk of the string, it helps a lot to use Eddington-Finkelstein coordinates:

$$ds^{2} = -\frac{r^{2}}{L^{2}} \left(1 - \frac{r_{H}^{4}}{r^{4}}\right) dv^{2} + 2dvdr + \frac{r^{2}}{L^{2}}d\vec{x}^{2}.$$
 (34)

Initializing with a segment of the trailing string,

$$x_{\text{trailing}} = \beta \left(v - \frac{L^2}{r_H} \tan^{-1} \frac{r}{r_H} \right) \,, \tag{35}$$

one finds—qualitatively—a trailing string truncated by the null geodesic.

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Amusing feature: at fixed E-F time, "trailing" string *leads* the endpoint (known to [Casalderrey-Solana and Teaney, hep-th/0701123]).

4.0 3.5 3.0 $r/(\pi TL^2)$ 2.5 2.0 1.5 1.0 -1 0 1 2 3 4 5 $\pi T x$

Starting from \dot{p}_{μ} for the endpoint, can derive

$$\frac{dE}{dx} = -\frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{2\pi} \frac{\sqrt{f(z_*)}}{z^2},$$
(36)

where z is determined as the height of the endpoint geodesic at position x.



3. Summary

- Finite endpoint momentum is part of classical string theory.
- Generally covariant superstring action including finite endpoint momentum must exist, but I don't understand the details.
- Endpoints with finite momentum follow spacetime geodesics except for abrupt changes in direction.
- Generalizations to finite momentum localized on a higher dimensional brane seem natural and interesting.
- Could try to replay Lund model in AdS_5 : starts with strings localized to AdS_2 .
- Finite endpoint momentum helps identify trajectories that maximize transverse distance traveled in AdS_5 -Schwarzschild with fixed energy.
- Heavy-ion applications of $\Delta x_{
 m stop} \propto E^{1/3}$ and bell-shaped dE/dx are under consideration.
- Interesting to consider also the *charge* of the endpoints: e.g. with a strong electric field, could we get endpoints to spontaneously rise up out of a black hole?

4. The whole history of a heavy ion collision

I'd like to offer a few thoughts (somewhat disconnected) about the whole history of a heavy ion collision, based partly on 1210.4181.



Conventional understanding of the history of a heavy ion collision relies on beamaxis boost invariance and a series of "phases" of hadronic matter.

But boost invariance is actually not a very good symmetry of the final state.

A cluster of *many* quarks and gluons (known as a nucleus) collides with another such cluster. What is this like in AdS_5 ?



This is very boost-non-invariant. Is there nevertheless some interesting averaged description?

4.1. Bjorken flow

Bjorken flow is simple because it respects a four-parameter symmetry group, SO(1, 1) (along beam axis) $\times ISO(2)$ (in transverse plane).

$$\epsilon = \epsilon(\tau)$$
 where $\tau = \sqrt{t^2 - x_3^2}$ (37)

because τ is the unique combination of the x^{μ} invariant under $SO(1, 1) \times ISO(2)$. The velocity field is also determined by symmetry:

$$u_{\mu} = \frac{\partial_{\mu}\tau}{\sqrt{\partial_{\mu}\tau\partial^{\mu}\tau}} \,. \tag{38}$$

Dynamics only enter into determining the form of $\epsilon(\tau)$: $\nabla^{\mu}T_{\mu\nu} = 0$ where

$$T_{\mu\nu} = \epsilon u_{\mu}u_{\nu} + \frac{\epsilon}{3}(\eta_{\mu\nu} + u_{\mu}u_{\nu}), \qquad (39)$$

leads to $\epsilon = \epsilon_0 / \tau^{4/3}$.

Janik-Peschanski construction of a boost-invariant black hole in AdS_5 generalizes Bjorken flow to include many viscous corrections.

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4.2. A modified boost symmetry

ISO(2) is an acceptable idealization, but boost-invariance is the enemy.

How about altering boost generator to something more general in SO(4, 2)?

If we insist [b, g] = 0 for $g \in ISO(2)$, then the only sensible choice is $SO(1, 1)_{\rm C}$ generated by



If $t_3 \neq 0$ and $k_3 = 0$, then the $SO(1, 1)_{\mathbb{C}} \times ISO(2)$ -invariant combination of x^{μ} is

$$\tau^{\mathbf{C}} = \sqrt{(t+t_3)^2 - x_3^2} \,. \tag{41}$$

For t_3 real, we can trivially repeat Bjorken flow story:

$$u_{\mu}^{\mathbf{C}} = -\frac{\partial_{\mu}\tau^{\mathbf{C}}}{\sqrt{\partial_{\mu}\tau^{\mathbf{C}}\partial^{\mu}\tau^{\mathbf{C}}}} \qquad T_{\mu\nu}^{\mathbf{C}} = \epsilon^{\mathbf{C}}u_{\mu}^{\mathbf{C}}u_{\nu}^{\mathbf{C}} + \frac{\epsilon^{\mathbf{C}}}{3}(\eta_{\mu\nu} + u_{\mu}^{\mathbf{C}}u_{\nu}^{\mathbf{C}}) \qquad \epsilon^{\mathbf{C}} = \frac{\epsilon_{0}^{\mathbf{C}}}{(\tau^{\mathbf{C}})^{4/3}}$$
(42)

 $\nabla^{\mu}T^{\mathbf{C}}_{\mu\nu} = 0$ is automatic because we're just translating Bjorken flow in time.

What if we translated by *imaginary* t_3 ? All quantities that were supposed to be real now become complex!

No problem, define $T_{\mu\nu} = \operatorname{Re}\{T^{\mathbf{C}}_{\mu\nu}\}$. Clearly, $\nabla^{\mu}T_{\mu\nu} = 0$.



η

(a)

 $T_{\mu\nu}$ generally does *not* obey hydrodynamic ansatz.

We can still define local 4-velocity by

 $T_{\mu\nu}u^{\nu} = -\epsilon_L u_{\mu}$

with $\epsilon_L > 0$.

Define y_F through

$$u^{\mu} = (\cosh y_F, 0, 0, \sinh y_F)$$

in lab frame.



 y_F

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Then $y_F \approx \eta$ at mid-rapidities, but $dy_F/d\eta \approx 1/2$ at forward rapidities.

In local frame where $u^{\mu} = (1, 0, 0, 0)$, find



Cooper-Frye freezeout over hydrodynamic region results in dN/dy somewhat too square too match BRAHMS data at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200 \text{ GeV}$ —but not too bad for $t_3 \approx 0.2 \text{ fm}/c$.



Cooper-Frye converts each fluid element to free-streaming particles at $T \approx 130$ MeV.

4.3. Thoughts for the future

• What's going on microscopically or holographically in $SO(1,1)_{\mathbf{C}}$ flow?

Maybe some combination of longitudinal color fields and quasiparticles, i.e. a QCD-Boltzmann equation?

What is the AdS dual of complex time deformation? $\operatorname{Re}\{g_{\mu\nu}\}$?? Strings & BH??

• Can we look at perturbations?

Easy in principle, linearized eom's are often complexified and you take $\operatorname{Re}\{\}$ at the end.

• How should we handle hadronization?

Maybe something like Schwinger production? Currently, we don't have \vec{E} , only $T_{\mu\nu}$.

- Why would $SO(1,1)_{\mathbf{C}}$ be a good symmetry?
- Can we consider finite transverse size?

 $SO(1,1)_{\mathbb{C}} \times SO(3)_q$ symmetry fits the bill, and one can work out the invariant coordinate; but region where positivity constraints should be applied is confusing me, as are branch cuts.