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Entanglement entropy of two disjoint intervals in conformal field theory II

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Abstract.

We continue the study of the entanglement entropy of two disjoint intervals in conformal field theories that we started in J. Stat. Mech. (2009) P11001. We compute $\text{Tr} \rho_A^n$ for any integer n for the Ising universality class and the final result is expressed as a sum of Riemann-Siegel theta functions. These predictions are checked against existing numerical data. We provide a systematic method that gives the full asymptotic expansion of the scaling function for small four-point ratio (i.e. short intervals). These formulas are compared with the direct expansion of the full results for free compactified boson and Ising model. We finally provide the analytic continuation of the first term in this expansion in a completely analytic form.

1. Introduction

In this manuscript we continue the study of the entanglement entropies of two disjoint intervals in conformal field theories (CFT) that we started in Ref. [1]. Let us consider a one-dimensional critical system whose scaling limit is described by a CFT of central charge c , and a partition into two parts A and its complement B . We define the reduced density matrix $\rho_A = \text{Tr}_B \rho$, where ρ is the density matrix of the entire system. The entanglement between A and B is characterized by the moments of ρ_A , i.e. $\text{Tr} \rho_A^n$, from which through the replica trick [2, 3] one obtains the Von Neumann entanglement entropy [4]

$$S_A \equiv -\text{Tr} \rho_A \log \rho_A = - \left. \frac{\partial}{\partial n} \text{Tr} \rho_A^n \right|_{n=1}. \quad (1)$$

For integer n , $\text{Tr} \rho_A^n$ is proportional to the partition function on an n -sheeted Riemann surface with branch cuts along the subsystem A , i.e. $\text{Tr} \rho_A^n = Z_n(A)/Z_1^n$ where $Z_n(A)$ is the partition function of the CFT on a conifold where n copies of the manifold $\mathcal{R} = \text{system} \times R^1$ (or $\text{system} \times S^1$ at finite temperature) are coupled along branch cuts along each connected piece of A at a time-slice $t = 0$.

In the case when A is a single interval of length ℓ in an infinite system, the n -sheeted Riemann surface is topologically equivalent to the complex plane on which it can be mapped by a uniformizing mapping. By studying the transformation of the stress energy tensor (i.e. the response of the partition function to a scale transformation) under this uniformizing map, one obtains [2, 3]

$$\text{Tr} \rho_A^n = c_n \ell^{-\frac{c}{6}(n-1/n)}, \quad (2)$$

from which the replica trick (1) leads to the famous result $(c/3) \log \ell$ [5, 6] and to the full spectrum of ρ_A [7].

When the subsystem A consists of N disjoint intervals (always in an infinite system), the entanglement entropy is sensitive to the full operator content of the theory and not only to the central charge c . The n -sheeted Riemann surface $\mathcal{R}_{n,N}$ has genus $(n-1)(N-1)$ and cannot be mapped to the complex plane so that the CFT calculations become much more complicated. Only few results are analytically available. For two intervals, i.e. $A = A_1 \cup A_2 = [u_1, v_1] \cup [u_2, v_2]$ (without loss of generality we assume $v_2 > u_2 > v_1 > u_1$), global conformal invariance leads to the scaling form

$$\text{Tr} \rho_A^n \equiv \frac{Z_{\mathcal{R}_{n,2}}}{Z_1^n} = c_n^2 \left(\frac{(u_2 - u_1)(v_2 - v_1)}{(v_1 - u_1)(v_2 - u_2)(v_2 - u_1)(u_2 - v_1)} \right)^{\frac{c}{6}(n-1/n)} \mathcal{F}_n(x), \quad (3)$$

where x is the four-point ratio (for real u_j and v_j , x is real)

$$x = \frac{(v_1 - u_1)(v_2 - u_2)}{(u_2 - u_1)(v_2 - v_1)}. \quad (4)$$

In Ref. [1] we showed that for a boson compactified on a circle of radius R (a Luttinger liquid field theory), the universal scaling function $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ is

$$\mathcal{F}_n(x) = \frac{\Theta(\mathbf{0}|\eta\Gamma) \Theta(\mathbf{0}|\Gamma/\eta)}{[\Theta(\mathbf{0}|\Gamma)]^2}, \quad (5)$$

where Γ is an $(n-1) \times (n-1)$ matrix with elements

$$\Gamma_{rs} = \frac{2i}{n} \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \sin\left(\pi \frac{k}{n}\right) \beta_{k/n} \cos\left[2\pi \frac{k}{n}(r-s)\right], \quad (6)$$

and

$$\beta_y = \frac{{}_2F_1(y, 1-y; 1; 1-x)}{{}_2F_1(y, 1-y; 1; x)}. \quad (7)$$

η is a universal critical exponent proportional to the square of the compactification radius R , while Θ is the Riemann-Siegel theta function

$$\Theta(\mathbf{z}|\Gamma) \equiv \sum_{\mathbf{m} \in \mathbf{Z}^{n-1}} \exp [i\pi \mathbf{m}^t \cdot \Gamma \cdot \mathbf{m} + 2\pi i \mathbf{m}^t \cdot \mathbf{z}], \quad (8)$$

with \mathbf{z} a generic complex vector with $n-1$ components (we denote vectors in bold letter to easily distinguish them from scalars). For $n=2$, $\mathcal{F}_2(x)$ reduces to the result in [8]. This is the only result for $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ known in full generality, and many other important partial results are known [8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22] both analytically and numerically.

However, although the moments of the reduced density matrix have been obtained for all integer n , the analytic continuation to complex n is still beyond our knowledge and so is the Von Neumann entropy. Some results have been obtained in Ref. [1] from Eq. (5) in the limit of small η and of small x (the latter only numerically, except for few specific values of η), and the two limits do not commute.

In this manuscript we extend the known results in several directions. We provide a systematic method that gives the full asymptotic expansion of $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ for small x (i.e. short intervals). This method is valid for any conformal invariant theory (even in the presence of boundaries and at finite temperature) and the obtained results are tested against known results (Sec. 3). Furthermore, it provides the coefficients of any expansion when the lengths of the intervals are smaller than any other length of the system, such as finite size, inverse temperature etc. In these cases the entanglement entropy is sensitive to all the CFT data on the appropriate Riemann surface. We derive the scaling function $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ for all n for the Ising universality class, generalizing the result in Ref. [15] for $n=2$ (in Sec. 4). We extend the small x expansion to the second non vanishing order both for the compactified boson and for the Ising model (Sec. 5). We derive a full analytic formula for the first non vanishing term in the small x expansion of the Von Neumann entropy (Sec. 6).

2. Summary of results

This section contains a summary of our main results, that are derived in the following.

2.1. Short-length expansion

We develop a general framework to calculate the *short-length expansion* of $\text{Tr} \rho_A^n$ that is very similar to the standard short-distance expansion for correlators. This formalism (that extends and generalizes a recent approach by Headrick [18]) applies every time in which A consists of one or more intervals $\{I_p\}$ whose lengths ℓ_p are much smaller than all the other characteristic lengths $\sim L$ (for example, the separation between the intervals, the size of the system or the inverse temperature). The short length expansion provides a series of powers of ℓ_p/L whose terms are universal and encode *all* the data of the CFT such as the scaling dimensions and the operator product expansion (OPE) coefficients. This expansion makes manifest the common belief that the entanglement entropies of disjoint intervals encode information about the *full data* of the CFT.

When these arguments are specialized to the case of two intervals (of lengths ℓ_1 and ℓ_2 whose centers are at a distance r) in an infinite system, we obtain

$$\mathrm{Tr} \rho_A^n = \frac{c_n^2}{(\ell_1 \ell_2)^{c/6(n-1/n)}} \sum_{\{k_j\}} \left(\frac{\ell_1 \ell_2}{n^2 r^2} \right)^{\sum_j (\Delta_j + \bar{\Delta}_j)} s_{\{k_j\}}(n), \quad (9)$$

where the sum is over all the set of possible operators $\{\phi_{k_j}\}$ of the CFT with conformal dimensions $(\Delta_{k_j}, \bar{\Delta}_{k_j})$. $s_{\{k_j\}}(n)$ are calculable coefficients depending on the correlation functions of these operators. This is easily converted in a systematic small x expansion of the function $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$. Each set of operators $\{k_j\}$ gives a leading contribution at order $x^{\sum_j (\Delta_j + \bar{\Delta}_j)}$. Furthermore, in $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ there are analytic contributions in x , which do not correspond to any operator and they come expanding the prefactor in Eq. (3) in powers of x .

In the case of compactified free boson and Ising model, we can expand the exact results for any x to obtain

$$\mathcal{F}_n(x) = 1 + \left(\frac{x}{4n^2} \right)^\alpha s_2(n) + \left(\frac{x}{4n^2} \right)^{2\alpha} s_4(n) + \dots, \quad (10)$$

where $\alpha = \min[\eta, 1/\eta]$ for boson and $\alpha = 1/4$ for Ising. The coefficients $s_2(n)$ and $s_4(n)$ are explicitly calculated in the asymptotic expansion and they are identified with the contributions of the short-length expansion coming from the two- and four-point functions of the most relevant operator in each theory. Contributions from three-point function are subleading. $s_2(n)$ has a simple zero at $n = 1$, while $s_4(n)$ has simple zeros at $n = 1, 2, 3$. In general $s_m(n)$ (coming from an m -point function) will have simple zeros at any integer $n < m$.

2.2. Result for the Ising universality class

For the Ising model, the scaling function $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ is

$$\mathcal{F}_n(x) = \frac{1}{2^{n-1} \Theta(\mathbf{0}|\Gamma)} \sum_{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}, \boldsymbol{\delta}} \left| \Theta \left[\begin{matrix} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \\ \boldsymbol{\delta} \end{matrix} \right] (\mathbf{0}|\Gamma) \right|. \quad (11)$$

Here Θ is the Riemann theta function with characteristic defined as

$$\Theta \left[\begin{matrix} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \\ \boldsymbol{\delta} \end{matrix} \right] (\mathbf{z}|\Gamma) \equiv \sum_{\mathbf{m} \in \mathbf{Z}^g} \exp \left[i\pi (\mathbf{m} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon})^\dagger \cdot \Gamma \cdot (\mathbf{m} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}) + 2\pi i (\mathbf{m} + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon})^\dagger \cdot (\mathbf{z} + \boldsymbol{\delta}) \right], \quad (12)$$

where $\mathbf{z} \in \mathbf{C}^{n-1}$ and Γ is the same as in Eq. (6). $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}, \boldsymbol{\delta}$ are vector with entries 0 and $1/2$. The sum in $(\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}, \boldsymbol{\delta})$ in Eq. (11) is intended over all the 2^{n-1} vectors $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$ and $\boldsymbol{\delta}$ with these entries. We show that $\mathcal{F}_n(x) = \mathcal{F}_n(1-x)$ and that it reproduces known analytical and numerical results [15, 17].

2.3. Analytic continuation of the leading term in the small x expansion

From the short length expansions (and from the asymptotic expansion of known results), the leading term of the small x expansion in $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ is

$$s_2(n) = \mathcal{N} \frac{n}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{\left[\sin \left(\pi \frac{j}{n} \right) \right]^{2\alpha}}, \quad (13)$$

and it comes from the two-point function of the most relevant operator of the CFT. The integer \mathcal{N} counts the number of inequivalent correlation functions giving the same

contribution (coming most often from degenerate operators). We have $\mathcal{N} = 2$ for free boson and $\mathcal{N} = 1$ for the Ising model.

We provide the analytic continuation to complex n for any value of α whose derivative at $n = 1$ is

$$s'_2(1) = \mathcal{N} \frac{\sqrt{\pi} \Gamma(\alpha + 1)}{4\Gamma(\alpha + \frac{3}{2})}, \quad (14)$$

that gives the asymptotic expansion of the scaling function of the von Neumann entropy

$$\mathcal{F}_{VN}(x) \equiv \frac{\partial}{\partial n} \mathcal{F}_n(x) \Big|_{n=1} = \mathcal{N} \left(\frac{x}{4}\right)^\alpha \frac{\sqrt{\pi} \Gamma(\alpha + 1)}{4\Gamma(\alpha + \frac{3}{2})} + \dots. \quad (15)$$

3. Short interval expansion

In this section we consider $\text{Tr} \rho_A^n$ in a variety of situations in which A consists of one or more intervals $\{I_p\}$ whose lengths ℓ_p are much smaller than all the other characteristic lengths $\sim L$ (for example, the separation between the intervals, the size of the system or the inverse temperature) and show that it can be expanded in a series of powers of ℓ_p/L whose terms are universal and encode all the data of the CFT such as the scaling dimensions and the operator product expansion (OPE) coefficients. Our arguments are a generalization of those of Headrick [18] to the case of non-zero conformal spin, to the next to leading orders in the OPE and to the case of more than two intervals. When these arguments are specialized to the case $N = 2$ in an infinite system, they provide a systematic small x expansion of the function $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$.

The basic idea, familiar from other situations in CFT, is that this ratio of partition functions can be thought of as a correlator

$$\frac{Z_n(\{I_p\})}{Z_1^n} = \langle \prod_{p=1}^N I_p \rangle_{\mathcal{R}^n}, \quad (16)$$

in n copies of the CFT on *decoupled* manifolds \mathcal{R} (notice n as power of \mathcal{R} and not as a subscript). More explicitly, in this correlator each I_p may be expanded in a complete set of local fields at a given point in the interval, for example its midpoint z_p :[‡]

$$I_p = \sum_{\{k_j\}} C_{\{k_j\}} \prod_{j=1}^n \phi_{k_j}(z_{p_j}), \quad (17)$$

where $\{\phi_k\}$ denotes a complete set of local fields for a single copy of the CFT, and z_{p_j} is the point z_p on the j th sheet.

This statement may be understood most easily within radial quantization. In the limit when the lengths ℓ_p are small compared with the separation between the intervals (and other length scales such as the system size, the distance to any boundary or the inverse temperature), we may surround the interval I_p by a circle on each sheet and consider the state $|I_p\rangle$ induced by coupling the CFTs along the branch cut I_p . Since at this radius the n sheets are distinct, this state lies in the Hilbert space $\otimes_{j=1}^n \mathcal{H}_j$

[‡] This may be thought of as a modification of the standard OPE in the plane

$$\phi_a(u)\phi_b(v) = \sum_c C_{abc} (u-v)^{-\Delta_a-\Delta_b+\Delta_c} (\bar{u}-\bar{v})^{-\bar{\Delta}_a-\bar{\Delta}_b+\bar{\Delta}_c} \phi_c\left(\frac{u+v}{2}\right),$$

to the case when we have non-local twist operators in n copies of the CFT.

where \mathcal{H}_j is the space of the j th CFT in radial quantization about z_{p_j} . Each of these is spanned by states $|\phi_k\rangle$ in one-to-one correspondence with the scaling operators of the CFT. That is, we can write

$$|I_p\rangle = \sum_{\{k_j\}} C_{\{k_j\}} \otimes_j |\phi_{k_j}\rangle_j. \quad (18)$$

However, by the operator-state correspondence of CFT, this is equivalent to Eq. (17).

The main point is now that, like the more conventional short-distance expansion of two local operators, the coefficients $C_{\{k_j\}}$ for a given interval are independent of the location and lengths of the other intervals in Eq. (16). Therefore they may be determined by considering the simplest possible case, that of a single interval $I = (-\ell/2, \ell/2)$ on the infinite line. In this case the partition function itself is trivial, but we can also consider the insertion of other operators \mathcal{O}_j on each sheet outside the circle of radial quantization. Specifically

$$\frac{Z_n(A)}{Z_1^n} \langle \prod_j \mathcal{O}_j \rangle_{\mathcal{R}_{n,1}} = \langle I \prod_j \mathcal{O}_j \rangle_{\mathcal{R}^n} = \sum_{\{k_j\}} C_{\{k_j\}} \prod_j \langle \phi_{k_j}(0_j) \mathcal{O}_j \rangle_{\mathcal{R}_j}. \quad (19)$$

Note the appearance of the ratio of partition functions, reflecting the fact that the correlators on the left and right sides are evaluated in different geometries. \mathcal{R}_j is the j th copy of the complex plane.

In particular, by choosing the \mathcal{O}_j to be a complete set of operators $\phi_{k_j}(z_j)$ as $z_j \rightarrow \infty$, we may use orthogonality[§]

$$\langle \phi_k(0) \phi_{k'}(z) \rangle = z^{-2\Delta_k} \bar{z}^{-2\bar{\Delta}_k} \delta_{kk'}, \quad (20)$$

where $(\Delta_k, \bar{\Delta}_k)$ are the conformal dimensions of ϕ_k , to find that

$$C_{\{k_j\}} = \frac{Z_n}{Z_1^n} \lim_{z_j \rightarrow \infty_j} z^{2\sum_j \Delta_{k_j}} \bar{z}^{2\sum_j \bar{\Delta}_{k_j}} \langle \prod_j \phi_{k_j}(z_j) \rangle_{\mathcal{R}_{n,1}}, \quad (21)$$

where the correlation function on the right is evaluated on the n -sheeted surface corresponding to a single interval in an infinite system. Note that this correlation function vanishes unless the fusion of $\prod_j \phi_{k_j}$ includes the conformal block of the identity. Also their total conformal spin should be an even integer, since I_p is invariant under a rotation through π about its midpoint.

We normalize the single interval partition function according to Eq. (2), so that

$$C_{\{k_j\}} = c_n \ell^{-(c/6)(n-1/n) + \sum_j (\Delta_{k_j} + \bar{\Delta}_{k_j})} d_{\{k_j\}}, \quad (22)$$

where the $d_{\{k_j\}}$ are dimensionless universal numbers.

In the case where the ϕ_{k_j} are all *primary*, the correlator in Eq. (21) is simply related to the same correlator in the plane by the uniformizing map

$$z \rightarrow f(z) = \left(\frac{z - \frac{1}{2}\ell}{z + \frac{1}{2}\ell} \right)^{1/n}, \quad (23)$$

which maps each sheet \mathcal{R}_j in a wedge of angle $2\pi/n$. Infinity on the j th sheet is mapped to the n th root of unity $e^{2\pi i j/n}$, and $f'(z) \sim (\ell/nz^2)$. Thus, for primary operators,

$$\langle \prod_j \phi_{k_j}(z_j) \rangle_{\mathcal{R}_{n,1}} = \prod_j f'(z_j)^{\Delta_{k_j}} \overline{f'(z_j)^{\bar{\Delta}_{k_j}}} \langle \prod_j \phi_{k_j}(f(z_j)) \rangle_{\mathbf{C}}. \quad (24)$$

[§] This assumes that the operators ϕ_k are all quasiprimary, that is $L_1 \phi_k = 0$.

So, using Eqs. (21), (22), and (24), we have

$$d_{\{k_j\}} = n^{-\sum_j(\Delta_{k_j} + \bar{\Delta}_{k_j})} \left\langle \prod_{j=1}^n \phi_{k_j}(e^{2\pi i j/n}) \right\rangle_{\mathbf{C}}. \quad (25)$$

For non-primary operators, derivatives and inhomogeneous terms involving the central charge may also arise. Eq. (25) is the key result of this section from which all the others follow.

In the limit $\ell \rightarrow 0$, the sum over the other values of $\{k_j\}$ may be organized according to how many of them are non-zero (at least in a unitary CFT with non-negative scaling dimensions).

- The leading term as $\ell \rightarrow 0$ is given by taking all the $\Delta_{k_j} = 0$, that is $\phi_{k_j} = \mathbf{1}$, the identity operator.
- The next term comes from taking all the $k_j = 0$ except one, say $k_j = k$. However in this case ϕ_k cannot be primary, since the 1-point function $\langle \phi_k \rangle_{\mathbf{C}}$ would vanish. The most interesting case is when ϕ_k is a component of the stress tensor, T or \bar{T} . In that case Eq. (21) becomes

$$C_T = C_{0,\dots,T,\dots,0} = \frac{Z_n}{Z_1^n} \frac{2}{c} \lim_{z_j \rightarrow \infty} z_j^4 \langle T(z_j) \rangle_{\mathcal{R}_{n,1}}. \quad (26)$$

(Note the factor of $2/c$ because the 2-point function of T is normalized to $c/2$ rather than unity.) However [2]

$$\langle T(z) \rangle_{\mathcal{R}_{n,1}} = \frac{c}{12} \frac{(1 - 1/n^2)}{(z - \frac{1}{2}\ell)^2 (z + \frac{1}{2}\ell)^2}, \quad (27)$$

so that

$$d_T = \frac{1}{6} \left(1 - \frac{1}{n^2} \right), \quad (28)$$

and similarly for $d_{\bar{T}}$.

- The next contribution comes from taking *two* of the k_j to be non-zero. Since the product must couple to the identity block this requires the two operators to be in the same block, and if they are real and primary they must be the same operator. Thus, taking $k_{j_1} = k_{j_2} = k$, we have, in an obvious notation,

$$\begin{aligned} d_k^{(j_1 j_2)} &= n^{-2(\Delta_k + \bar{\Delta}_k)} \langle \phi_k(e^{2\pi i j_1/n}) \phi_k(e^{2\pi i j_2/n}) \rangle_{\mathbf{C}} \\ &= \frac{n^{-2(\Delta_k + \bar{\Delta}_k)}}{[e^{2\pi i j_1/n} - e^{2\pi i j_2/n}]^{2\Delta_k} [e^{-2\pi i j_1/n} - e^{-2\pi i j_2/n}]^{2\bar{\Delta}_k}}. \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

Note that we must have $j_1 \neq j_2$.

- Similarly, if *three* of the k_j are non-zero and correspond to primary fields $(\phi_{k_1}, \phi_{k_2}, \phi_{k_3})$

$$\begin{aligned} d_{k_1 k_2 k_3}^{(j_1 j_2 j_3)} &= n^{-\Delta_1 - \Delta_2 - \Delta_3 - \bar{\Delta}_1 - \bar{\Delta}_2 - \bar{\Delta}_3} \langle \phi_{k_1}(e^{\frac{2\pi i j_1}{n}}) \phi_{k_2}(e^{\frac{2\pi i j_2}{n}}) \phi_{k_3}(e^{\frac{2\pi i j_3}{n}}) \rangle_{\mathbf{C}} \\ &= \frac{n^{-\Delta_1 - \Delta_2 - \Delta_3 - \bar{\Delta}_1 - \bar{\Delta}_2 - \bar{\Delta}_3} c_{123}}{[e^{\frac{2\pi i j_1}{n}} - e^{\frac{2\pi i j_2}{n}}]_{\Delta_1 + \Delta_2 - \Delta_3} [e^{-\frac{2\pi i j_1}{n}} - e^{-\frac{2\pi i j_2}{n}}]_{\bar{\Delta}_1 + \bar{\Delta}_2 - \bar{\Delta}_3} \times \text{cyclic permutations}}, \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

where we shortened $\Delta_{k_p} = \Delta_p$ and $c_{123} = c_{k_1 k_2 k_3}$ is an OPE coefficient.

- The next term involves the 4-point functions at the n th roots of unity, and so on. However, the correlation functions with more than 3 points are different for any CFT and so Eq. (25) cannot be simplified in general.

Note that for a fixed positive integer n , only the N -point functions with $N \leq n$ contribute. This means that the coefficients in the short length expansion, as analytic functions of n , must have zeroes at positive integer values of $n < N$.

We now discuss a number of applications of the short length expansion.

3.1. Single interval in a finite geometry or near a boundary.

In this case the 1-point functions $\langle \phi_{k_j} \rangle_{\mathcal{R}_1}$ can be non vanishing. An interesting example is the contribution of the stress tensor. From the above we have

$$\text{Tr } \rho_A^n = c_n \ell^{-(c/6)(n-1/n)} \left(1 + \dots + \frac{1}{6}(n-1/n)\ell^2(\langle T \rangle + \langle \bar{T} \rangle) + \dots \right). \quad (31)$$

(The extra factor of n comes from the sum over j .) We recognize the second factor as being proportional to the energy density T_{tt} . In fact we can deduce a rather general result: the $O(\ell^2)$ correction to the Rényi entropy $S_n = \frac{1}{1-n} \ln \text{tr } \rho_A^n$ of a single interval in a finite system (or at finite temperature) is given by the local energy density:

$$\delta S_n = \frac{\pi}{6} (1 + 1/n) \langle \mathcal{E} \rangle \ell^2. \quad (32)$$

This can be checked by comparison with the result in Ref. [2] for a single interval in a system of length L with periodic boundary conditions

$$S_n = \frac{c}{6} \left(1 + \frac{1}{n} \right) \log \left[\frac{L}{\pi} \sin \frac{\pi \ell}{L} \right], \quad (33)$$

by expanding to $O((\ell/L)^2)$ and using $\langle \mathcal{E} \rangle = -\pi c/6L^2$. However Eq. (32) is more general, and applies, for example, to the case of an interval in the interior of a finite open system (as considered in Ref. [17]), or to a finite system at finite temperature. In fact at finite temperature we see that this correction (which is valid for $\ell \ll \beta$) already exhibits the beginning of the crossover to thermodynamic entropy which actually occurs only in the limit $\ell \gg \beta$ (see Ref. [2]).

Another case where 1-point functions can arise is in the case when the interval is near a boundary (say, at a distance $\sim y$) with $\ell \ll y$. In that case the leading correction comes from the case where two of the $\{k_j\}$ are non-zero, equal to (say) k , and it involves the square of the 1-point function $\langle \phi_k(y) \rangle = f_k y^{-\Delta_k - \bar{\Delta}_k}$, where f_k is universal (but depends on the boundary conditions). The correction to $\text{Tr } \rho_A^n$ is then

$$\frac{1}{2} \sum_{j_1 \neq j_2} d_k^{(j_1 j_2)} f_k^2 \left(\frac{\ell}{y} \right)^{2\Delta_k + 2\bar{\Delta}_k}. \quad (34)$$

3.2. Two intervals in an infinite system.

We now apply the general result to the case of interest for the rest of this paper, i.e. we take $A = [u_1, v_1] \cup [u_2, v_2]$. Global conformal invariance gives $\text{Tr } \rho_A^n$ as in Eq. (3) with the harmonic ratio in Eq. (4). In terms of the notation above, we have $\ell_1 = |u_1 - v_1|$ and $\ell_2 = |u_2 - v_2|$. Let $r = \frac{1}{2}|u_1 + v_1 - u_2 - v_2|$ be the distance between the centers of the intervals. We are interested in the limit where $\ell_1, \ell_2 \ll r$. In that case

$$x = \frac{\ell_1 \ell_2}{r^2 - \left(\frac{\ell_1 - \ell_2}{2} \right)^2} = \frac{\ell_1 \ell_2}{r^2} \left[1 + O\left((\ell_p/r)^2 \right) \right], \quad (35)$$

and the prefactor in Eq. (3) is

$$\frac{(u_2 - u_1)(v_2 - v_1)}{(v_1 - u_1)(v_2 - u_2)(v_2 - u_1)(u_2 - v_1)} = \frac{1}{\ell_1 \ell_2 (1 - x)} = \frac{1}{\ell_1 \ell_2} (1 + x + O(x^2)). \quad (36)$$

Notice that often r is defined as the distance between the two intervals $|u_2 - v_1|$, but the current choice absorbs some of the subleading corrections as clear from the fact that Eq. (35) has no corrections at order $1/r$ that would be present with any other choice of r . Furthermore if $\ell_1 = \ell_2$, we have $x = \ell_1^2/r^2$ exactly.

From Eq. (16), we have

$$\text{Tr } \rho_A^n = \langle I_1 I_2 \rangle_{\mathcal{C}^n}, \quad (37)$$

and inserting the short interval expansion (17) for each interval, we find

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Tr } \rho_A^n &= \sum_{\{k_{1_j}\}} \sum_{\{k_{2_j}\}} C_{\{k_{1_j}\}}(\ell_1) C_{\{k_{2_j}\}}(\ell_2) \prod_{j=1}^n \langle \phi_{k_{1_j}}(r) \phi_{k_{2_j}}(0) \rangle_{\mathcal{C}} \\ &= \sum_{\{k_j\}} C_{\{k_j\}}(\ell_1) C_{\{k_j\}}(\ell_2) \prod_{j=1}^n \langle \phi_{k_j}(r) \phi_{k_j}(0) \rangle_{\mathcal{C}}, \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

where in the second line we used orthogonality, i.e. the only non-zero contributions are from $\{k_j\} \equiv \{k_{1_j}\} = \{k_{2_j}\}$.^{||} Using now Eqs. (22) and (25) we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Tr } \rho_A^n &= c_n^2 (\ell_1 \ell_2)^{-c/6(n-1/n)} \sum_{\{k_j\}} (\ell_1 \ell_2)^{\sum_j (\Delta_j + \bar{\Delta}_j)} d_{\{k_j\}}^2 \prod_{j=1}^n \langle \phi_{k_j}(r) \phi_{k_j}(0) \rangle_{\mathcal{C}} \\ &= c_n^2 (\ell_1 \ell_2)^{-c/6(n-1/n)} \sum_{\{k_j\}} \left(\frac{\ell_1 \ell_2}{r^2} \right)^{\sum_j (\Delta_j + \bar{\Delta}_j)} d_{\{k_j\}}^2 \\ &= c_n^2 (\ell_1 \ell_2)^{-c/6(n-1/n)} \sum_{\{k_j\}} \left(\frac{\ell_1 \ell_2}{n^2 r^2} \right)^{\sum_j (\Delta_j + \bar{\Delta}_j)} \langle \prod_{j=1}^n \phi_{k_j}(e^{2\pi i j/n}) \rangle_{\mathcal{C}}^2. \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

Thus we obtain an expansion of $\text{Tr } \rho_A^n$ in powers of $\ell_1 \ell_2 / r^2$, which, via Eq. (35), can be converted to the expansion of the function $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ in powers of x .

As explained above, to organize the sums as an asymptotic expansion (i.e. with increasing powers of x) we have to order all possible n -tuples of quasi-primaries ϕ_{k_j} with non vanishing correlation functions according to the value of $\sum_j (\Delta_j + \bar{\Delta}_j)$.

3.2.1. The contribution of the stress-energy tensor. There is an important term when one of the $\phi_{k_j} = T$ (or \bar{T}) and the rest of the $k_j = 0$. Using the above values of d_T and the fact that $\langle T(r)T(0) \rangle = c/(2r^4)$, this gives a contribution

$$2 \frac{cn(1 - 1/n^2)^2}{72} \left(\frac{\ell_1 \ell_2}{r^2} \right)^2 = \frac{cn(1 - 1/n^2)^2}{36} x^2, \quad (40)$$

where the factor 2 in front of the lhs takes into account that there are two identical contributions from T and \bar{T} correlations. Thus, in the infinite line, there are no contributions at order $O(x)$ in $\text{Tr } \rho_A^n$ coming from one-point functions. There could also be terms $O(\ell^2)$ arising from two fields each of dimension 1.

^{||} This assumes that the whole system is critical and described by the CFT. In fact the short interval expansion can also be used in the non-critical theory, as long as $\ell_p \ll$ the correlation length ξ , in which case these correlators are proportional to the Zamolodchikov metric.

3.2.2. The leading contribution. The leading term, assuming that there are operators of sufficiently low dimension, comes from the case where *two* of the $\{k_j\}$ are non-zero, say equal to k . Their contribution in $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ is

$$x^{2(\Delta_k + \bar{\Delta}_k)} \sum_{j_1 < j_2} (d_k^{(j_1 j_2)})^2, \quad (41)$$

where $d_k^{(j_1 j_2)}$ is given by Eq. (29). There is an important point to be made here concerning the role of conformal spin $s_k = \Delta_k - \bar{\Delta}_k$. The expression for $d_k^{(j_1 j_2)}$ is periodic under $(j_1, j_2) \rightarrow (j_1 + n, j_2 + n)$, and therefore we can shift the summation variables $(j_1, j_2) \rightarrow (j_1 + 1, j_2 + 1)$ in Eq. (41) without changing the result. However

$$(d_k^{(j_1+1, j_2+1)})^2 = e^{-8\pi i(\Delta_k - \bar{\Delta}_k)/n} (d_k^{(j_1 j_2)})^2. \quad (42)$$

Hence the sum in Eq. (41) vanishes unless $4s_k/n$ is an integer. This means that the contribution of a given primary field with non-zero spin is non vanishing only for a finite number of values of n (which are multiples of 4).

From above, we can easily write down the coefficient $s_k(n)$ entering in the expansion of the function $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ in power of x as

$$\begin{aligned} s_k(n) &= 2^{4x_k} \sum_{0 \leq j_1 < j_2 \leq n-1} \frac{e^{4\pi i(j_1 + j_2)s_k/n}}{|e^{2\pi i j_1/n} - e^{2\pi i j_2/n}|^{4x_k}} \\ &= \sum_{0 \leq j_1 < j_2 \leq n-1} \frac{e^{4\pi i(j_1 + j_2)s_k/n}}{|\sin(\pi(j_2 - j_1)/n)|^{4x_k}}, \end{aligned} \quad (43)$$

where we defined $x_k = \Delta_k + \bar{\Delta}_k$. Since $4s_k/n$ is an integer, the numerator is at most a sign. For $s_k = 0$, using the translational invariance in $j_{1,2}$, the sum can be rewritten as

$$s_k(n) = \frac{n}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{(\sin \pi j/n)^{4x_k}}, \quad (44)$$

that reproduces the result in [18]. In any specific CFT, this contribution should be multiplied by the number of inequivalent correlation functions giving identical contributions (due e.g. to degenerate operators).

3.2.3. The contribution of the three-point functions of primary operators. In the case of a three point function, the contribution in $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ is given by

$$x^{\Delta_{k_1} + \bar{\Delta}_{k_1} + \Delta_{k_2} + \bar{\Delta}_{k_2} + \Delta_{k_3} + \bar{\Delta}_{k_3}} \sum_{0 \leq j_1 < j_2 < j_3 \leq n-1} (d_{k_1 k_2 k_3}^{(j_1 j_2 j_3)})^2, \quad (45)$$

where $d_{k_1 k_2 k_3}^{(j_1 j_2 j_3)}$ is given by Eq. (30). Analogously to before, the contribution of non-zero spin operators vanishes unless $2(s_{k_1} + s_{k_2} + s_{k_3})/n$ is an integer. We recall that in the following equations, to have a non vanishing contribution, we also need the coefficient c_{123} to be non-zero (for example for the Ising model, the three point functions of the spin and energy operator are both vanishing, and the one with lower scaling dimension would be $\langle \sigma(z_1)\sigma(z_2)\epsilon(z_3) \rangle$). Thus, in most of the physical relevant cases, the contributions from three points functions are subleading compared to four-point ones, as we shall see in specific examples.

Specializing to the case of zero conformal spin, we have the coefficient entering in the expansion of the function $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ in powers of x $s_{123}(n) \equiv s_{k_1 k_2 k_3}(n)$:

$$\begin{aligned} s_{123}(n) &= \sum_{j_1 < j_2 < j_3} \frac{2^{2(x_1+x_2+x_3)} c_{123}}{|e^{\frac{2\pi i j_1}{n}} - e^{\frac{2\pi i j_2}{n}}|^{2x_{12;3}} |e^{\frac{2\pi i j_1}{n}} - e^{\frac{2\pi i j_3}{n}}|^{2x_{13;2}} |e^{\frac{2\pi i j_2}{n}} - e^{\frac{2\pi i j_3}{n}}|^{2x_{23;1}}} \\ &= \sum_{0 \leq j_1 < j_2 < j_3 \leq n-1} \frac{c_{123}}{[\sin(\pi j_{21}/n)]^{2x_{12;3}} [\sin(\pi j_{31}/n)]^{2x_{13;2}} [\sin(\pi j_{32}/n)]^{2x_{23;1}}}, \end{aligned} \quad (46)$$

where $j_{pq} = j_p - j_q$ and $x_{ab;c} = x_a + x_b - x_c$. Using the translational invariance in the j_p , one of the three sums can be removed, but doing so is not very illuminating.

3.2.4. The contribution of the four-point functions of primary operators. For a general CFT the four-point function has the form

$$\langle \phi_{k_1}(z_1) \phi_{k_2}(z_2) \phi_{k_3}(z_3) \phi_{k_4}(z_4) \rangle_{\mathbf{C}} = \prod_{1 \leq q < p \leq 4} (z_p - z_q)^{\Delta_{pq}} (\bar{z}_p - \bar{z}_q)^{\bar{\Delta}_{pq}} G(x_z, \bar{x}_z), \quad (47)$$

with $\Delta_{pq} \equiv \sum_{\ell=1}^4 \Delta_{\ell}/3 - \Delta_p - \Delta_q$ and similarly for $\bar{\Delta}_{pq}$. x_z stands for the four point ratio of the points z_p . The universal function $G(x_z, \bar{x}_z)$ should be calculated on a case by case basis because it depends on the CFT and on the specific operators considered [23, 24]. The function $G(x_z, \bar{x}_z)$ can be rather complicated for a general CFT, but in the two cases we will consider in the following and for the operators of lower dimension, it assumes a rather simple form that allows to write down $d_{\{k_j\}}$ explicitly.

The four spin correlation function in the Ising model can be written as [23, 24]

$$\langle \sigma(z_1) \sigma(z_2) \sigma(z_3) \sigma(z_4) \rangle_{\mathbf{C}}^2 = \frac{1}{4} \left| \frac{z_{13} z_{24}}{z_{14} z_{23} z_{12} z_{34}} \right|^{1/2} \left[1 + \left| \frac{z_{12} z_{34}}{z_{13} z_{24}} \right| + \left| \frac{z_{14} z_{23}}{z_{13} z_{24}} \right| \right], \quad (48)$$

that gives the lowest power in x coming from a four-point function in the short length expansion. For the free compactified boson, the lowest contribution is given by the correlation function of four vertex operator two with charge $\sqrt{\mu}$ ($V_{\mu}(z) = e^{i\sqrt{\mu}\varphi(z)}$) and two $-\sqrt{\mu}$ ($V_{-\mu}(z) = e^{-i\sqrt{\mu}\varphi(z)}$). The value of $\mu = \alpha = \min[\eta, 1/\eta]$ is directly related to the compactification radius. The three relevant correlations are

$$\begin{aligned} \langle V_{\mu}(z_1) V_{\mu}(z_2) V_{-\mu}(z_3) V_{-\mu}(z_4) \rangle_{\mathbf{C}} &= \left| \frac{z_{12} z_{34}}{z_{14} z_{23} z_{14} z_{23}} \right|^{2\mu}, \\ \langle V_{\mu}(z_1) V_{-\mu}(z_2) V_{\mu}(z_3) V_{-\mu}(z_4) \rangle_{\mathbf{C}} &= \left| \frac{z_{13} z_{24}}{z_{14} z_{23} z_{12} z_{34}} \right|^{2\mu}, \\ \langle V_{\mu}(z_1) V_{-\mu}(z_2) V_{-\mu}(z_3) V_{\mu}(z_4) \rangle_{\mathbf{C}} &= \left| \frac{z_{23} z_{14}}{z_{24} z_{13} z_{12} z_{34}} \right|^{2\mu}. \end{aligned} \quad (49)$$

The correlators with $\mu \rightarrow -\mu$ should be also included and these give identical contributions. The correlations for the Ising model and for the free boson can be treated on the same foot since the formers come from the bosonization of the latter with $\mu = 1/4$.

It is now easy to obtain the factors $d_{\mu_1 \mu_2 \mu_3 \mu_4}^{(j_1 j_2 j_3 j_4)}$ with $\mu_p = \pm\mu$ as for example

$$\begin{aligned} d_{\mu, \mu, -\mu, -\mu}^{(j_1 j_2 j_3 j_4)} &= n^{-4\mu} \langle V_{\mu}(e^{\frac{2\pi i j_1}{n}}) V_{\mu}(e^{\frac{2\pi i j_2}{n}}) V_{-\mu}(e^{\frac{2\pi i j_3}{n}}) V_{-\mu}(e^{\frac{2\pi i j_4}{n}}) \rangle_{\mathbf{C}} \\ &= (2n)^{-4\mu} \left| \frac{\sin(\pi j_{21}/n) \sin(\pi j_{43}/n)}{\sin(\pi j_{42}/n) \sin(\pi j_{31}/n) \sin(\pi j_{41}/n) \sin(\pi j_{32}/n)} \right|^{2\mu}, \end{aligned} \quad (50)$$

and the other two just by permuting properly j_p . We used that all these operators have zero conformal spin.

4. The Ising model

The partition function of the Ising model on a generic Riemann surface of genus g with *period matrix* τ has been obtained in Ref. [25] (see also [26]) and reads

$$Z = (Z_0^{\text{qu}})^{1/2} 2^{-g} \sum_{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}, \boldsymbol{\delta}} \left| \Theta \left[\begin{array}{c} \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \\ \boldsymbol{\delta} \end{array} \right] (\mathbf{0} | \tau) \right|, \quad (51)$$

where Z_0^{qu} is the quantum part of the partition function for a free boson that does not depend on the details of the Riemann surface (and on the target space as well) but only on its topology. Z_0^{qu} has been calculated by Dixon et al. [27] (see also [28]). In Eq. (51), the sum is intended over all the 2^g vectors $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$ and $\boldsymbol{\delta}$ with entries 0 and $1/2$. We mention that this result for the Ising model is rather special, indeed usually it is *not* possible to give a closed formula for a general Riemann surface with arbitrary period matrix τ for all CFTs. For example, also for the compactified boson, such a formula does not exist (in [1], the property that the matrix τ is purely imaginary has been exploited to obtain Eq. (5)).

Combining Eq. (51) with our results in Ref. [1], it is easy to derive the Ising partition function on the n -sheeted Riemann surface $\mathcal{R}_{n,2}$. In fact, a by-product of the calculation for the free boson [1] is that the $(n-1) \times (n-1)$ period matrix is given by Eq. (6). Although derived for a free boson, the period matrix is a pure geometrical object and it is only related to the structure of the world-sheet $\mathcal{R}_{n,2}$ and so it is the same for any theory.

The function $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ for the Ising model is proportional to Eq. (51) with τ equal to the matrix Γ in Eq. (6), and the proportionality constant is fixed by requiring $\mathcal{F}_n(0) = 1$. In this way, we simply obtain Eq. (11). We mention that for known formulas analogous to Eq. (51) and valid for other theories, $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ can be easily obtained in the same way.

We performed several checks for the correctness of this equation. For $n = 2$ it reduces to

$$\mathcal{F}_2(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left[\left[\frac{(1 + \sqrt{x})(1 + \sqrt{1-x})}{2} \right]^{1/2} + x^{1/4} + [(1-x)x]^{1/4} + (1-x)^{1/4} \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad (52)$$

obtained (and checked against numerical calculations) in Ref. [15]. For $n = 3, 4$ numerical estimates of these functions have been obtained from the exact diagonalization of the Ising chain in [17]. The comparison of our prediction with the numerical data for $n = 3$ and $n = 4$ is reported in Fig. 1. The agreement is excellent, taking also into account that the extrapolation to $\ell \rightarrow \infty$ in Ref. [17] has been obtained without knowing the asymptotic result.

4.1. Invariance under $x \rightarrow 1-x$

When $x \rightarrow 1-x$, $\mathcal{F}_n(1-x)$ is given by Eq. (11) where Γ is replaced by $\tilde{\Gamma}$ given by Eq. (6) where x is replaced by $1-x$ (i.e. $\beta_y \rightarrow 1/\beta_y$). We denote by $\tilde{\mathcal{F}}_n(x) = \mathcal{F}_n(1-x)$ the expression obtained by using $\tilde{\Gamma}$ instead of Γ in (11). In order to show the invariance of (11) under $x \rightarrow 1-x$, we observe that in general we have

$$\Theta \left[\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{a} \\ \mathbf{b} \end{array} \right] (\mathbf{z} | T) = \frac{e^{2\pi i \mathbf{a}^t \cdot (\mathbf{z} + \mathbf{b})}}{\sqrt{\det(-iT)}} \Theta \left[\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{z} + \mathbf{b} \\ -\mathbf{a} \end{array} \right] (\mathbf{0} | -T^{-1}), \quad (53)$$

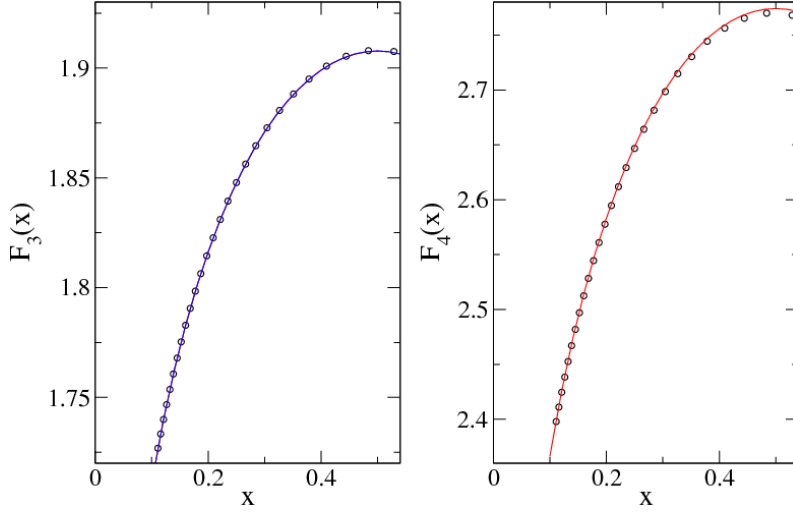


Figure 1. $\mathcal{F}_{3,4}(x)$: The extrapolated numerical data of Ref. [17] are compared with our prediction. Only $x \leq 0.5$ are reported because of the symmetry $x \rightarrow 1-x$.

for all complex vectors \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} and \mathbf{z} . This can be shown by a straightforward generalization of the first part of the appendix B of Ref. [1]. The relation (53) implies that

$$\frac{1}{\Theta(\mathbf{0}|T)} \left| \Theta \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a} \\ \mathbf{b} \end{bmatrix} (\mathbf{0}|T) \right| = \frac{1}{\Theta(\mathbf{0}|-T^{-1})} \left| \Theta \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b} \\ -\mathbf{a} \end{bmatrix} (\mathbf{0}|-T^{-1}) \right|. \quad (54)$$

Applying this relation to $T = \tilde{\Gamma} = -A\Gamma^{-1}A$ (the transformation matrix A is defined in App. B of Ref. [1]), we find

$$\tilde{\mathcal{F}}_n(x) = \frac{1}{2^{n-1}\Theta(\mathbf{0}|A^{-1}\Gamma A)} \sum_{\varepsilon, \delta} \left| \Theta \begin{bmatrix} \delta \\ -\varepsilon \end{bmatrix} (\mathbf{0}|A^{-1}\Gamma A) \right|. \quad (55)$$

In Ref. [1] we have used that $\Theta(\mathbf{0}|A^{-1}\Gamma A) = \Theta(\mathbf{0}|\Gamma)$ without proof (see Eq. (B.5) of [1]). Here we argue that a generalized version of this equation is

$$\sum_{\varepsilon, \delta} \left| \Theta \begin{bmatrix} \delta \\ -\varepsilon \end{bmatrix} (\mathbf{0}|A^{-1}\Gamma A) \right| = \sum_{\varepsilon, \delta} \left| \Theta \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon \\ \delta \end{bmatrix} (\mathbf{0}|\Gamma) \right|, \quad (56)$$

which is numerically true and we give without proof. From this relation, we find that (11) is invariant under $x \rightarrow 1-x$, namely $\mathcal{F}_n(1-x) = \tilde{\mathcal{F}}_n(x) = \mathcal{F}_n(x)$.

5. The small x expansion

As we showed above, for small x , the scaling function $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ displays a systematic expansion revealing the full operator content of the theory in an explicit manner. Here we consider the first two non vanishing contributions from the expansion of $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ for the free boson and the Ising model. This expansion has the form reported in Eq. (10) that gives the first terms in the asymptotic expansion as long as $2\alpha < 1$, because $O(x)$ terms exist as well (the latter are actually trivial as we shall see and do not correspond to any operator). We recall that α is the double of the leading scaling

operator in the theory (i.e. for the boson $\alpha = \min[\eta, 1/\eta]$ and for Ising $\alpha = 1/4$). The coefficients $s_{2,4}(n)$ are explicitly calculated in the following. We mention that in both models the contribution of non vanishing three-point functions are subleading, as clear from the conformal spectra of the two theories.

Notice that, since the exponents in this expansion do not depend on n , the structure of the power series passes over to the analytic continuation and so the scaling function of the von Neumann entanglement entropy is

$$\mathcal{F}_{VN}(x) = \frac{\partial}{\partial n} \mathcal{F}_n(x) \Big|_{n=1} = \left(\frac{x}{4}\right)^\alpha s'_2(1) + \left(\frac{x}{4}\right)^{2\alpha} s'_4(1) + \dots, \quad (57)$$

where we used $\mathcal{F}_1(x) = 1$ (i.e. $\text{Tr}\rho_A = 1$). The calculation of the analytic continuation of the amplitude $s_m(n)$ and their derivative at $n = 1$ is rather complicated and will be considered in Sec. 6.

5.1. First order for the compactified boson

The calculation of the leading coefficient $s_2(n)$ for a free compactified boson has been already reported in Ref. [1]. This is repeated here for completeness and to fix the notation for the Ising model and for calculating the second non vanishing order.

The first ingredient we need is the expansion of $\beta_{k/n}$ for $x \rightarrow 0$

$$\beta_{\frac{k}{n}} = -\frac{\sin\left(\pi\frac{k}{n}\right)}{\pi} \left(\log x + f_{\frac{k}{n}} + \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} p_l \left(\frac{k}{n}\right) x^l \right), \quad f_{\frac{k}{n}} \equiv 2\gamma_E + \psi\left(\frac{k}{n}\right) + \psi\left(1 - \frac{k}{n}\right),$$

where γ_E is the Euler gamma, $\psi(z) \equiv \Gamma'(z)/\Gamma(z)$ is the polygamma function and $p_l(z)$ is a polynomial of degree $2l$, whose explicit expression is not needed because it contributes at order $o(x)$ that we do not consider here. Plugging this expansion in the Riemann-Siegel theta function we obtain

$$\Theta(\mathbf{0}|\eta\Gamma) = 1 + \sum_{\mathbf{m} \in \mathbf{Z}^{n-1} \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}} x^{\eta a_{\mathbf{m}}} e^{\eta b_{\mathbf{m}}} [1 + O(x)], \quad (58)$$

where the two vector-dependent coefficients $a_{\mathbf{m}}$ and $b_{\mathbf{m}}$ are

$$a_{\mathbf{m}} \equiv \frac{2}{n} \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \sin^2\left(\pi\frac{k}{n}\right) \mathbf{m}^t \cdot C_{k/n} \cdot \mathbf{m}, \quad (59)$$

$$b_{\mathbf{m}} \equiv \frac{2}{n} \sum_{k=1}^{n-1} \sin^2\left(\pi\frac{k}{n}\right) f_{k/n} \mathbf{m}^t \cdot C_{k/n} \cdot \mathbf{m}, \quad (60)$$

and the matrix $C_{k/n}$ has elements [1]

$$\left(C_{\frac{k}{n}}\right)_{rs} \equiv \cos\left[2\pi\frac{k}{n}(r-s)\right]. \quad (61)$$

The leading term in the small x expansion is provided by those vectors $\mathbf{m} \in \mathbf{Z}^{n-1} \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}$ which minimize $a_{\mathbf{m}}$. When evaluated on the vectors \mathbf{m} , it is easy to show that

$$a_{\mathbf{m}} = \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} m_j^2 - \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} m_j m_{j+1} = \frac{m_1^2 + m_{n-1}^2}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n-2} (m_j - m_{j+1})^2, \quad (62)$$

where m_j indicates the j component of the vector \mathbf{m} . When minimizing $a_{\mathbf{m}}$, the second term in the rhs of the last expression tends to make all the components of \mathbf{m}

equal and only “domain walls” give a non vanishing contribution, proportional to the square of the difference of the two neighbor components at the wall. The first term is like a “boundary term” and tend to make the absolute value of of the boundaries m_1 and m_{n-1} as small as possible. Within these ingredients, it is obvious that (among the non zero vectors) $a_{\mathbf{m}}$ is minimized by all vectors of the form

$$\mathbf{m}_{\pm}^t \equiv \left(\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{j_1}, \underbrace{\pm 1, \dots, \pm 1}_{j_2 - j_1}, 0, \dots, 0 \right), \quad (63)$$

with $0 \leq j_1 < j_2 \leq n - 1$ that give all $a_{\mathbf{m}} = 1$. In order to calculate $b_{\mathbf{m}}$, we use

$$s(j_2 - j_1) \equiv \mathbf{m}_{\pm}^t \cdot C_{k/n} \cdot \mathbf{m}_{\pm} = \sum_{p,q=1}^{j_2 - j_1} \left(C_{\frac{k}{n}} \right)_{pq} = \left(\frac{\sin \left(\pi \frac{k}{n} (j_2 - j_1) \right)}{\sin \left(\pi \frac{k}{n} \right)} \right)^2, \quad (64)$$

and the integral representation of the polygamma function

$$\psi(y) + \gamma_E = \int_0^{\infty} \frac{e^{-t} - e^{-yt}}{1 - e^{-t}} dt. \quad (65)$$

Exchanging the order of sum and integral and then performing the latter, after simple algebra we find

$$b_{\mathbf{m}_{\pm}} = -2 \log \left[2n \sin \left(\pi \frac{j_2 - j_1}{n} \right) \right]. \quad (66)$$

We now can use the translational invariance of $s(j_2 - j_1)$ to fix $j_1 = 0$ and multiply by the number of possible j_1 at fixed $j_2 - j_1$, i.e. $(n - j_2)$. There is another factor 2 to take into account the two possible signs in the vectors \mathbf{m}_{\pm} .

Now, assuming $\eta \neq 1$, in the ratio of Riemann-Siegel theta functions occurring in $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ the leading term is given by the minimum between η and $1/\eta$, that we indicate as $\alpha = \min(\eta, 1/\eta)$. Therefore we get the small x behavior of the scaling function (renaming $j_2 = j$)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}_n(x) &= 1 + x^{\alpha} \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{2(n-j)}{[2n \sin \left(\pi \frac{j}{n} \right)]^{2\alpha}} + \dots = 1 + 2 \left(\frac{x}{4n^2} \right)^{\alpha} \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{j}{[\sin \left(\pi \frac{j}{n} \right)]^{2\alpha}} + \dots \\ &= 1 + n \left(\frac{x}{4n^2} \right)^{\alpha} \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{[\sin \left(\pi \frac{j}{n} \right)]^{2\alpha}} + \dots, \end{aligned} \quad (67)$$

where the dots denote higher order terms in x . We stress that this expansion is valid only for $\eta \neq 1$, in fact for $\eta = 1$ the denominator in $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ (that is of order $O(x)$) cancels exactly the numerator.

This first order term in Eq. (67) coincides exactly with the prediction from short length expansion (44) with $x_k = \alpha/2$ corresponding to the scaling dimension of the vertex operators $V_{\pm\alpha}(z)$. The additional factor 2 comes from the fact that both correlations $\langle V_{\alpha} V_{-\alpha} \rangle$ and $\langle V_{-\alpha} V_{\alpha} \rangle$ must be considered.

5.2. Digression on the denominator

The previous analysis also provides the small x expansion of the denominator in $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ corresponding to $\alpha = 1$. We have

$$\Theta(\mathbf{0}|\Gamma) = 1 + n \left(\frac{x}{4n^2} \right) \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{[\sin \left(\pi \frac{j}{n} \right)]^2} + \dots. \quad (68)$$

As showed in Ref. [1] we have

$$\sum_{l=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{[\sin(\pi l/n)]^2} = \frac{1}{3}(n^2 - 1), \quad (69)$$

so that the denominator is

$$[\Theta(\mathbf{0}|\Gamma)]^2 = 1 + x \frac{1}{6} \left(n - \frac{1}{n} \right) + O(x^2), \quad (70)$$

that gives an $O(x)$ contribution to the scaling function $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$. However there is no operator in the spectrum of the free boson whose correlation function can contribute at order $O(x)$. This fact could sound as a breakdown of the short-length expansion, but it is not. Indeed, it predicts the asymptotic expansion of the full $\text{Tr}\rho_A^n$ and in general any term in this expansion is also reproduced in $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$. However, in the case of integer powers, we should properly take into account the prefactor of $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ in $\text{Tr}\rho_A^n$ as in Eq. (3). According to Eq. (36), this is (for $c = 1$)

$$\left[\frac{1}{\ell_1 \ell_2 (1-x)} \right]^{1/6(n-1/n)} = \frac{1}{(\ell_1 \ell_2)^{1/6(n-1/n)}} \left(1 + x \frac{1}{6} (n - 1/n) + O(x^2) \right), \quad (71)$$

that exactly cancels the $O(x)$ contribution of the denominator in Eq. (70). Thus there is no $O(x)$ contribution in $\text{Tr}\rho_A^n$ in agreement with the short-length expansion.

5.3. First order in x for the Ising model

We can now move to the calculation of the first non vanishing contribution to $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ for the Ising model. In order to study the behavior of Eq. (11) when $x \rightarrow 0$ we isolate the contribution of the terms with $\varepsilon = \mathbf{0}$

$$\mathcal{F}_n(x) = \frac{1}{2^{n-1} \Theta(\mathbf{0}|\Gamma)} \left(\sum_{\delta} \left| \Theta \left[\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{0} \\ \delta \end{array} \right] (\mathbf{0}|\Gamma) \right| + \sum_{\varepsilon \neq \mathbf{0}} \sum_{\delta} \left| \Theta \left[\begin{array}{c} \varepsilon \\ \delta \end{array} \right] (\mathbf{0}|\Gamma) \right| \right) \quad (72)$$

$$= \frac{1 + O(x)}{2^{n-1}} \left(\sum_{\delta} [1 + O(x)] + \sum_{\varepsilon \neq \mathbf{0}} \sum_{\delta} \left| \Theta \left[\begin{array}{c} \varepsilon \\ \delta \end{array} \right] (\mathbf{0}|\Gamma) \right| \right). \quad (73)$$

By using the definition of $a_{\mathbf{m}}$ and $b_{\mathbf{m}}$ in the previous subsection, we find for $\varepsilon \neq \mathbf{0}$

$$\Theta \left[\begin{array}{c} \varepsilon \\ \delta \end{array} \right] (\mathbf{0}|\Gamma) = \sum_{\mathbf{m} \in \mathbf{Z}^{n-1}} e^{2\pi i (\mathbf{m} + \varepsilon)^t \cdot \delta} x^{a_{\mathbf{m} + \varepsilon}} e^{b_{\mathbf{m} + \varepsilon}} [1 + O(x)]. \quad (74)$$

Again the leading contribution is given by all the vectors \mathbf{m} that minimize $a_{\mathbf{m}}$. By simple inspection, the minimum value of $a_{\mathbf{m} + \varepsilon}$ is $1/4$ and for any ε of the form

$$\varepsilon^t = \left(\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{j_1}, \underbrace{1/2, \dots, 1/2}_{j_2 - j_1}, 0, \dots, 0 \right), \quad (75)$$

the value $a_{\mathbf{m} + \varepsilon} = 1/4$ is obtained for the two vectors

$$\mathbf{m}^t \equiv \left(\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{j_1}, \underbrace{-1, \dots, -1}_{j_2 - j_1}, 0, \dots, 0 \right) \implies (\mathbf{m} + \varepsilon)^t = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{m}_-^t, \quad (76)$$

$$\mathbf{m}^t \equiv (0, \dots, 0) \implies (\mathbf{m} + \varepsilon)^t = \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{m}_+^t, \quad (77)$$

where \mathbf{m}_{\pm} are the vectors employed for the free boson in Eq. (63). It is therefore clear that we can exploit the results of the free boson to obtain the expansion for Ising

very easily. In particular, $a_{\mathbf{m}+\varepsilon}$ and $b_{\mathbf{m}+\varepsilon}$ are 1/4 of the corresponding free boson quantities. Thus from Eq. (73) we have

$$\mathcal{F}_n(x) = \frac{1}{2^{n-1}} \left(2^{n-1} + \sum_{\varepsilon \neq \mathbf{0}} \sum_{\delta} \left| \Theta \left[\begin{matrix} \varepsilon \\ \delta \end{matrix} \right] (\mathbf{0}|\Gamma) \right| \right) + \dots \quad (78)$$

$$= 1 + \frac{1}{2^{n-1}} \sum_{\varepsilon \neq \mathbf{0}} \sum_{\delta} \left| \sum_{\mathbf{m} \in \mathbf{Z}^{n-1}} e^{2\pi i(\mathbf{m}+\varepsilon) \cdot \delta} x^{a_{\mathbf{m}+\varepsilon}} e^{b_{\mathbf{m}+\varepsilon}} \right| + \dots \quad (79)$$

$$= 1 + \frac{x^{1/4}}{2^{n-1}} \sum_{0 \leq j_1 < j_2 \leq n-1} e^{b_{(\mathbf{m}+\varepsilon)_{\pm}}} \sum_{\delta} \left| e^{\pi i \mathbf{m}_+^t \cdot \delta} + e^{\pi i \mathbf{m}_-^t \cdot \delta} \right| + \dots \quad (80)$$

$$= 1 + \frac{x^{1/4}}{2^{n-1}} \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} (n-j) e^{b_{(\mathbf{m}+\varepsilon)_{\pm}}} \sum_{\delta} \left| e^{\pi i \mathbf{m}_+^t \cdot \delta} + e^{-\pi i \mathbf{m}_+^t \cdot \delta} \right| + \dots \quad (81)$$

$$= 1 + \frac{x^{1/4}}{2^{n-1}} \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{(n-j)}{[2n \sin(\pi j/n)]^{2\frac{1}{4}}} \sum_{\delta} \left| e^{\pi i \mathbf{m}_+^t \cdot \delta} + e^{-\pi i \mathbf{m}_+^t \cdot \delta} \right| + \dots \quad (82)$$

The various steps are very easy, but it is pedagogical to summarize the properties we employed. We used that $b_{(\mathbf{m}+\varepsilon)_{\pm}}$ is real and independent of δ , \pm and j_1 . In (81) we have used the translational invariance to fix $j_1 = 0$ and renamed $j_2 = j$. In (82) we have employed the free-boson result exposing the role of the factor 1/4 which is relevant in this case. The next step is to observe that $\mathbf{m}_+^t \cdot \delta = q/2$, where q is the number of 1/2's occurring in the first j coordinates of δ . The remaining $n-1-j$ coordinates of δ do not change the scalar product and this freedom provides a factor 2^{n-1-j} . Thus we find

$$\sum_{\delta} \left| e^{\pi i \mathbf{m}_+^t \cdot \delta} + e^{-\pi i \mathbf{m}_+^t \cdot \delta} \right| = 2^{n-1-j} \sum_{q=0}^j \binom{j}{q} \left| e^{\pi i q/2} + e^{-\pi i q/2} \right| = 2^{n-1}. \quad (83)$$

The final result is

$$\mathcal{F}_n(x) = 1 + x^{\frac{1}{4}} \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{(n-j)}{[2n \sin(\pi j/n)]^{\frac{1}{2}}} + \dots = 1 + \frac{n}{2} \left[\frac{x}{4n^2} \right]^{\frac{1}{4}} \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{\sin^{\frac{1}{2}}[\pi j/n]} + \dots \quad (84)$$

Notice that this equation has the same form as the one for free boson Eq. (67) for $\alpha = 1/4$, with an additional factor 1/2 in front. This is exactly what predicted by short length expansion (cf. Eq. (44)) from the two-point spin correlation function.

As for the free boson, the $O(x)$ contribution from the denominator of $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ cancels with the $O(x)$ contribution of the prefactor in Eq. (3), in agreement with the short length expansion, since also for the Ising model no correlation function can contribute at $O(x)$.

5.4. Second order for the compactified boson

To obtain the second order in the small x expansion, we need to know the vectors \mathbf{m} in Eq. (58) that give the second minimal value of $a_{\mathbf{m}}$. Since $a_{\mathbf{m}}$ can assume only integer values (cf. Eq. (62)), we need to identify all vectors giving $a_{\mathbf{m}} = 2$. From the rhs of Eq. (62), we can have $a_{\mathbf{m}} = 2$ only by introducing another two domain-walls of height one in the string of ± 1 in \mathbf{m}_{\pm} in Eq. (63). Thus the vector \mathbf{m} giving $a_{\mathbf{m}} = 2$

can only be of the forms

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{m}_0^{\dagger} &\equiv \left(\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{j_1}, \underbrace{\pm 1, \dots, \pm 1}_{j_2 - j_1}, \underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{j_3 - j_2}, \underbrace{\pm 1, \dots, \pm 1}_{j_4 - j_3}, 0, \dots, 0 \right), \\
\mathbf{m}_1^{\dagger} &\equiv \left(\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{j_1}, \underbrace{\pm 1, \dots, \pm 1}_{j_2 - j_1}, \underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{j_3 - j_2}, \underbrace{\mp 1, \dots, \mp 1}_{j_4 - j_3}, 0, \dots, 0 \right), \\
\mathbf{m}_2^{\dagger} &\equiv \left(\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{j_1}, \underbrace{\pm 1, \dots, \pm 1}_{j_2 - j_1}, \underbrace{\pm 2, \dots, \pm 2}_{j_3 - j_2}, \underbrace{\pm 1, \dots, \pm 1}_{j_4 - j_3}, 0, \dots, 0 \right),
\end{aligned} \tag{85}$$

where $0 \leq j_1 < j_2 < j_3 < j_4 \leq n - 1$. For each \mathbf{m}_r we have two types of vectors corresponding to the sign of the first non-zero element (when needed we will specify the vector with an additional \pm subscript). We remark that these vectors exist only for $n \geq 4$. For $n = 2$ and $n = 3$ the minimum value of $a_{\mathbf{m}}$ greater than 1 is $a_{\mathbf{m}} = 4$ and $a_{\mathbf{m}} = 3$ respectively, as predicted by short-length expansion.

In order to get $b_{\mathbf{m}}$ for the vectors \mathbf{m}_r above, the first step is to compute $\mathbf{m}_r^{\dagger} \cdot C_{k/n} \cdot \mathbf{m}_r$. We introduce the sum of the elements of the matrix $C_{k/n}$ enclosed in a rectangle made by λ_r rows and λ_c columns starting at the $(p+1)$ -th row and at the $(q+1)$ -th column. It is given by

$$s(p, \lambda_r, q, \lambda_c) \equiv \sum_{i=p+1}^{p+\lambda_r} \sum_{j=q+1}^{q+\lambda_c} (C_{k/n})_{ij} \tag{86}$$

$$= \frac{\sin(\pi(k/n)\lambda_r) \sin(\pi(k/n)\lambda_c)}{\sin(\pi(k/n))^2} \cos\left(\pi \frac{k}{n} (2[p-q] + \lambda_r - \lambda_c)\right) \tag{87}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2 \sin^2(\pi k/n)} \left\{ \sin^2 \left[\frac{\pi k}{n} (p - q + \lambda_r) \right] + \sin^2 \left[\frac{\pi k}{n} (p - q - \lambda_c) \right] - \sin^2 \left[\frac{\pi k}{n} (p - q + \lambda_r - \lambda_c) \right] - \sin^2 \left[\frac{\pi k}{n} (p - q) \right] \right\}. \tag{88}$$

In the special case of a square (i.e. $\lambda_r = \lambda_c \equiv \lambda$) on the diagonal (i.e. $p = q$) it reduces to Eq. (64), i.e. $s(p, \lambda, p, \lambda) = s(\lambda)$. Then, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{m}_0^{\dagger} \cdot C_{k/n} \cdot \mathbf{m}_0 &= s(j_{21}) + s(j_{43}) + 2s(j_1, j_{21}, j_3, j_{43}), \\
\mathbf{m}_1^{\dagger} \cdot C_{k/n} \cdot \mathbf{m}_1 &= s(j_{21}) + s(j_{43}) - 2s(j_1, j_{21}, j_3, j_{43}), \\
\mathbf{m}_2^{\dagger} \cdot C_{k/n} \cdot \mathbf{m}_2 &= s(j_{21}) + s(j_{43}) + 2s(j_3, j_{43}, j_1, j_{21}) \\
&\quad + 4(s(j_{32}) + s(j_2, j_{32}, j_3, j_{43}) + s(j_1, j_{21}, j_2, j_{32})),
\end{aligned} \tag{89}$$

where we introduced $j_{kl} = j_k - j_l$.

At this point we have all the ingredients to calculate $b_{\mathbf{m}_r}$ from their definition (60) and from Eq. (65) to deal with the polygamma function. It is a tedious, but straightforward calculation to obtain these coefficients. After long algebra, we finally have

$$b_{\mathbf{m}_r} = \log \left(\frac{Q_r}{4n^2} \right)^2, \quad \text{for } r = 0, 1, 2, \tag{90}$$

where we defined

$$Q_0 \equiv \frac{\sin(\pi j_{42}/n) \sin(\pi j_{31}/n)}{\sin(\pi j_{21}/n) \sin(\pi j_{43}/n) \sin(\pi j_{41}/n) \sin(\pi j_{32}/n)}, \tag{91}$$

$$Q_1 \equiv \frac{\sin(\pi j_{41}/n) \sin(\pi j_{32}/n)}{\sin(\pi j_{21}/n) \sin(\pi j_{43}/n) \sin(\pi j_{42}/n) \sin(\pi j_{31}/n)}, \tag{92}$$

$$Q_2 \equiv \frac{\sin(\pi j_{21}/n) \sin(\pi j_{43}/n)}{\sin(\pi j_{42}/n) \sin(\pi j_{31}/n) \sin(\pi j_{41}/n) \sin(\pi j_{32}/n)}. \quad (93)$$

We have $Q_r > 0$ for any r . Notice that $Q_{0,1,2}$ are invariant under translation (i.e. depend only on the differences of the j 's) although Eqs. (89) are not. There are few other important symmetries of these factors. Each Q_r is invariant under $1 \leftrightarrow 2$ and $3 \leftrightarrow 4$. Under the cyclic permutation $\{1, 2, 3, 4\} \leftrightarrow \{4, 1, 2, 3\}$, we have $Q_0 \rightarrow -Q_0$ and $Q_{1,2} \rightarrow -Q_{2,1}$, but the minus signs do affect the value of $b_{\mathbf{m}_r}$ in Eq. (90) since they are function of the squares of Q_r .

After having computed the amplitudes $b_{\mathbf{m}_r}$ from the vectors \mathbf{m}_r , we need to sum over all of them according to

$$s_4(n) = 2 \sum_{0 \leq j_1 < j_2 < j_3 < j_4 \leq n-1} [Q_0^{2\alpha} + Q_1^{2\alpha} + Q_2^{2\alpha}], \quad (94)$$

where we factorized out the factor $(4n^2)^{-2\alpha}$ according to the definition (10) and we used the positivity of the factors Q_r (otherwise the absolute value of each Q_r should be used). The factor 2 comes from the two possible vectors (i.e. starting with ± 1) of each type.

This result for $s_4(n)$ agrees with the prediction of short-length expansion, using Eq. (50) and summing over j_p . The three Q_r correspond to the three possible four-point correlation functions of the vertex operator $V_{\pm\alpha}(z)$, as clear by comparison. The factor two in front corresponds to the two sets of non vanishing correlators.

It is also possible to further simplify $s_4(n)$. We can use the invariance under translation of the factor Q_r . This implies that if we, for example fix $j_{2,3,4}$, the sum does not depend on j_1 that we can fix to 0 and we get an overall factor a factor $n - j_4$, leading to

$$s_4(n) = \sum_{1 \leq j_2 < j_3 < j_4 \leq n-1} 2(n - j_4) [Q_0^{2\alpha} + Q_1^{2\alpha} + Q_2^{2\alpha}] \quad (95)$$

$$= \frac{n}{2} \sum_{1 \leq j_2 < j_3 < j_4 \leq n-1} [Q_0^{2\alpha} + Q_1^{2\alpha} + Q_2^{2\alpha}] = \frac{n}{2} \sum_{1 \leq j_2 < j_3 < j_4 \leq n-1} [Q_0^{2\alpha} + 2Q_1^{2\alpha}]. \quad (96)$$

In the last line we have used the identity

$$\sum_{1 \leq j_2 < j_3 < j_4 \leq n-1} Q_1^{2\alpha} = \sum_{1 \leq j_2 < j_3 < j_4 \leq n-1} Q_2^{2\alpha}, \quad \text{for any } \alpha, \quad (97)$$

that is valid only at the level of the sum (and after fixing $j_1 = 0$), but not for the single term. This is a consequence of the permutation symmetry of the Q_r 's. Another interesting relation, that is particularly useful in the case $\alpha = 1/4$ (and so for the Ising model in the following) is

$$Q_0^{1/2} = Q_1^{1/2} + Q_2^{1/2}, \quad (98)$$

which can be easily shown by using the prosthaphaeresis formula involving the product $\sin A \sin B$.

5.5. Second order for the Ising model

We can employ the results of the previous subsection to compute the second non vanishing term in the expansion of $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ for the Ising model. For a given characteristic

(ε, δ) , the vectors $\mathbf{m} \in \mathbf{Z}^{n-1}$ contributing to the $O(x^{1/2})$ order are characterized by $a_{\mathbf{m}+\varepsilon} = 1/2$. From Eq. (79), we have

$$s_4(n) = \frac{(4n^2)^{1/2}}{2^{n-1}} \sum_{\varepsilon \neq \mathbf{0}} \sum_{\delta} \left| \sum_{\mathbf{m} \text{ s.t. } a_{\mathbf{m}+\varepsilon}=1/2} e^{2\pi i(\mathbf{m}+\varepsilon) \cdot \delta} e^{b_{\mathbf{m}+\varepsilon}} \right|. \quad (99)$$

The vectors \mathbf{m} contributing to this sum (i.e. with $a_{\mathbf{m}+\varepsilon} = 1/2$) are such that $\mathbf{m} + \varepsilon$ are half of the corresponding ones for the free boson, i.e. half of \mathbf{m}_r introduced in Eqs. (85). Thus, as for the boson, the sum over \mathbf{m} can be rewritten as sums over $j_{1,2,3,4}$, but the choice of \mathbf{m} also fixes ε , and so this sum can be dropped. Using the value of $b_{\mathbf{m}_r}$ in Eq. (90) we have

$$s_4(n) = \sum_{0 \leq j_1 < j_2 < j_3 < j_4 \leq n-1} \frac{1}{2^{n-1}} \sum_{\delta} \left(2 \left| Q_0^{1/2} \cos(\pi \mathbf{m}_0 \cdot \delta) + Q_1^{1/2} \cos(\pi \mathbf{m}_1 \cdot \delta) + Q_2^{1/2} \cos(\pi \mathbf{m}_2 \cdot \delta) \right| \right). \quad (100)$$

To write the sum over δ in a manipulable way, we notice that the scalar products are very simple to write as

$$\mathbf{m}_0 \cdot \delta = \frac{q_1 + q_2}{2}, \quad \mathbf{m}_1 \cdot \delta = \frac{q_1 - q_2}{2}, \quad \mathbf{m}_2 \cdot \delta = \frac{q_1 + q_2 + 2q_0}{2}, \quad (101)$$

where q_1 is the number of $1/2$ in δ in the part j_{21} of \mathbf{m}_r , q_2 the number of $1/2$ in δ in the part j_{43} of \mathbf{m}_r , and q_0 the number of $1/2$ in δ in the part j_{32} . The argument of the sum does not depend on the presence of $1/2$ in the j -th component of δ with $j > j_4$ and $j \leq j_1$, so that the $2^{n-1-j_{41}}$ possible choices give equal contributions providing an overall factor $2^{n-1-j_{41}}$ in front of the sum over $q_{0,1,2}$. Putting everything together, we have

$$s_4(n) = \sum_{0 \leq j_1 < j_2 < j_3 < j_4 \leq n-1} \frac{1}{2^{j_{41}-1}} \sum_{q_1=0}^{j_{21}} \sum_{q_2=0}^{j_{43}} \sum_{q_0=0}^{j_{32}} \binom{j_{21}}{q_1} \binom{j_{43}}{q_2} \binom{j_{32}}{q_0} \times \left| \cos \left[\frac{\pi}{2}(q_1 + q_2) \right] Q_0^{1/2} + \cos \left[\frac{\pi}{2}(q_1 - q_2) \right] Q_1^{1/2} + \cos \left[\frac{\pi}{2}(q_1 + q_2 + 2q_0) \right] Q_2^{1/2} \right|. \quad (102)$$

Since, for any triplet of integers $\{q_1, q_2, q_0\}$, the parity of $q_1 + q_2$, $q_1 - q_2 = (q_1 + q_2) - 2q_2$ and $q_1 + q_2 + 2q_0$ is the same, the terms having odd $q_1 + q_2$ do not contribute. Thus, we have

$$s_4(n) = \sum_{0 \leq j_1 < j_2 < j_3 < j_4 \leq n-1} \frac{1}{2^{j_{41}-1}} \sum_{q_1=0}^{j_{21}} \sum_{q_2=0}^{j_{43}} \sum_{q_0=0}^{j_{32}} \binom{j_{21}}{q_1} \binom{j_{43}}{q_2} \binom{j_{32}}{q_0} \times \left| \cos \left(\frac{\pi}{2}(q_1 + q_2) \right) \right| \left| Q_0^{1/2} + (-1)^{q_2} Q_1^{1/2} + (-1)^{q_0} Q_2^{1/2} \right|, \quad (103)$$

$$\times \left| \cos \left(\frac{\pi}{2}(q_1 + q_2) \right) \right| \left| Q_0^{1/2} + (-1)^{q_2} Q_1^{1/2} + (-1)^{q_0} Q_2^{1/2} \right|, \quad (104)$$

where $|\cos(\pi(q_1 + q_2)/2)|$ simply selects the terms with even $q_1 + q_2$. Thus, the sums over q 's in (103) can be organized as follows

$$\sum_{q_1} \sum_{q_2} \sum_{q_0} \left| \sum_{\text{even } q_1+q_2} \left(\sum_{\text{even } q_1} + \sum_{\text{odd } q_1} \right) \left(\sum_{\text{even } q_2} + \sum_{\text{odd } q_2} \right) \right| \sum_{q_0} \quad (105)$$

$$= \left[\sum_{\text{even } q_1} \sum_{\text{even } q_2} + \sum_{\text{odd } q_1} \sum_{\text{odd } q_2} \right] \left(\sum_{\text{even } q_0} + \sum_{\text{odd } q_0} \right) \quad (106)$$

$$= \sum_{q_1, q_2, q_0 \in 2\mathbf{Z}} + \sum_{\substack{q_1, q_2 \in 2\mathbf{Z} \\ q_0 \in 2\mathbf{Z}+1}} + \sum_{\substack{q_1, q_2 \in 2\mathbf{Z}+1 \\ q_0 \in 2\mathbf{Z}}} + \sum_{q_1, q_2, q_0 \in 2\mathbf{Z}+1}. \quad (107)$$

In Eq. (105) the condition of even $q_1 + q_2$ selects two of the four sums coming from $\sum_{q_1} \sum_{q_2}$. Each of the four sums in (107) is characterized by a specific sequence of relative signs between the three contributions to the general term in (104). Once the relative signs have been fixed, the dependence on q 's is only in the binomials. This means that we can perform the three sums over q 's in each one of the four terms indicated in (107). In order to make this sum, we find it convenient to leave the parity of three indices q 's unrestricted and introduce a factor $|\cos(\pi q/2)|$ or $|\cos(\pi(q+1)/2)|$ when q is required to be respectively even or odd. Then, we have that

$$\sum_{q=0}^j \binom{j}{q} \left| \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2}q\right) \right| = \sum_{q=0}^j \binom{j}{q} \left| \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2}(q+1)\right) \right| = 2^{j-1}. \quad (108)$$

By using (107) and (108) we can perform the sums over q 's in (103) and reduce them to the sum of four terms. Thus, we have

$$s_4(n) = \sum_{0 \leq j_1 < j_2 < j_3 < j_4 \leq n-1} \frac{1}{4} \sum_{\tau_1, \tau_2} \left| Q_0^{1/2} + \tau_1 Q_1^{1/2} + \tau_2 Q_2^{1/2} \right|, \quad (109)$$

where $\tau_1, \tau_2 \in \{-1, +1\}$. Now, we use Eq. (98) which allows us to further simplify the sum over (τ_1, τ_2) in (109), which becomes

$$\sum_{\tau_1, \tau_2} \left| Q_0^{1/2} + \tau_1 Q_1^{1/2} + \tau_2 Q_2^{1/2} \right| = 2 \left(\left| Q_0^{1/2} \right| + \left| Q_1^{1/2} \right| + \left| Q_2^{1/2} \right| \right) = 4Q_0^{1/2}, \quad (110)$$

where we have also used that $Q_j^{1/2} > 0$. Notice that, because of Eq. (98), the term corresponding to $(\tau_1, \tau_2) = (-, -)$ vanishes identically. Thus, the final result is as simple as

$$s_4(n) = \sum_{0 \leq j_1 < j_2 < j_3 < j_4 \leq n-1} Q_0^{1/2}, \quad (111)$$

that is one quarter of the free-boson result for $\alpha = 1/4$. This value of $s_4(n)$ agrees with the result from short-length expansion using the four-point spin correlation function in Eq. (48) and evaluating it at the roots of unit as in Eq. (50). This would give the sum of the three pieces in Eq. (110), that we have shown how to further simplify.

As for the free boson, we use translational invariance to fix $j_1 = 0$ at the price of the overall factor $n - j_4$, to rewrite $s_4(n)$ as

$$s_4(n) = \sum_{1 \leq j_2 < j_3 < j_4 \leq n-1} (n - j_4) Q_0^{1/2} = \frac{n}{4} \sum_{1 \leq j_2 < j_3 < j_4 \leq n-1} Q_0^{1/2}. \quad (112)$$

6. The analytic continuation

In this section we consider the analytic continuation of $s_2(n)$, and in particular we obtain its derivative at $n = 1$ giving the small x behavior of the entanglement entropy. In Ref. [1] we provided a general method allowing a very precise numerical computation of $s_2(n)$ for non-integer n , but we have been able to give a full analytic answer only for specific values of α , i.e. for $\alpha = 0, 1/2, 1$. This has been generalized in Ref. [18] to any integer multiple of $\alpha/2$. Here we fill this gap and give a full analytic answer for the analytic continuation for any value of α .

We start rewriting $s_2(n)$ as (we temporarily drop the factor \mathcal{N})

$$s_2(n) = \frac{n}{2} \sum_{j=1}^{n-1} \frac{1}{\left[\sin^2\left(\frac{2\pi j}{2n}\right) \right]^\alpha}, \quad (113)$$

and since it is periodic, let us write a Fourier series

$$(\sin^2(u/2))^{-\alpha} = \sum_{k \in \mathbf{Z}} f(k) e^{iku}, \quad (114)$$

where

$$f(k) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} (\sin^2(u/2))^{-\alpha} e^{-iku} du = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\pi (\sin^2 y)^{-\alpha} e^{-2iky} dy. \quad (115)$$

For $\alpha < 1/2$, this integral can be done (see e.g. 3.631 of Gradshteyn and Ryzhik [29])

$$f(k) = \frac{2^{2\alpha} e^{-i\pi k} \Gamma(1 - 2\alpha)}{\Gamma(1 - \alpha + k) \Gamma(1 - \alpha - k)}. \quad (116)$$

Note that $f(k) \sim |k|^{-1+2\alpha}$ as $|k| \rightarrow \infty$, as expected by power-counting.

We need now to perform the sum

$$\sum_{j=1}^{n-1} e^{i2\pi jk/n}, \quad (117)$$

which gives $n - 1$ if $k = 0 \pmod{n}$, and -1 otherwise. The sum for $s_2(n)$ can be then written as

$$s_2(n) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k \in \mathbf{Z}} [nf(nk) - f(k)], \quad (118)$$

that vanishes at $n = 1$ as it must. This formula *could* provide the required analytic continuation, but it should be handle with a lot of care. Indeed there are two main problems with this sum, one numerical and the other conceptual.

Let us start with the first problem. The two subsums defining $s_2(n)$ (i.e. $\sum nf(nk)$ and $\sum f(k)$) are both divergent. Their sum can be made convergent only if the two terms are summed in the proper order, i.e. if we use the same upper limit for nk in the first and k in the second and only within this recipe we can take the difference and send the cutoff to infinity. If one makes the sum naively, it diverges. For integer n , by summing numerically in this way, we reproduce easily the correct results obtained by the direct sum Eq. (113). However, for non-integer n the obtained sum is not a smooth curve (see Fig. 2), signaling some troubles with this analytic continuation that leads to the second problem.

Indeed, it is obvious that the analytic continuation of a function defined only on integer numbers is not unique, because, e.g. we can multiply it by some function like $\cos^2(\pi n)$ (that is 1 on the integer) or add any analytic function times $\sin(\pi n)$ that vanishes for integer n . However, all these analytic continuations with the same values on integer numbers have different behavior at $\pm i\infty$ and this is the essence of the Carlson's theorem [30], stating (in physical words) that the analytic continuation is unique once the desired behavior at $\pm i\infty$ is imposed. While at first sight this can seem a problem, it has been indeed shown that this arbitrariness can be a great advantage. For example, it can provide the solutions of different physical problems with a single result for integer numbers, as e.g. done in Ref. [31] where correlation functions of one-dimensional models with different statistics have been obtained by the same replicated form, only requiring different behavior at $\pm i\infty$.

Going back to our problem, it should be clear that to select the correct analytic continuation we should have a look to $n \rightarrow \infty$, i.e. we should consider the behavior of

$f(k)$ for $k \rightarrow \infty$. Exploiting the asymptotic expansion of the Γ function [29], we have

$$\begin{aligned} f(k \rightarrow \pm\infty) &\simeq 2^{2\alpha} e^{-i\pi k} \Gamma(1-2\alpha) \frac{\sin[(\alpha + |k|)\pi]}{\pi |k|^{1-2\alpha}} \\ &= 2^{2\alpha} (\cos(\pi k) - i \sin(\pi k)) \Gamma(1-2\alpha) \frac{\sin(\alpha\pi) \cos(\pi k) + \sin(|k|\pi) \cos(\pi\alpha)}{\pi |k|^{1-2\alpha}}. \end{aligned} \quad (119)$$

In this simple formula we see in action all the pieces for which Carlson's theorem has been formulated: there are additive $\sin(\pi k)$ pieces (that do not change the sum for integer k) and multiplicative $\cos^2 \pi k$ (that just give 1 on integers). Both factors change the value of $f(k)$ [and so of $s_2(n)$] only for non-integer values. Carlson's theorem states that we need to impose the required analytic behavior for $\pm i\infty$ to select the correct analytic continuation. In our case we require that $s_2(n)$ (and so any term in the sum $f(nk)$) does not blow up exponentially. This implies that all the $\sin(\pi k)$ terms are set to zero and the $\cos^2(\pi k)$ to one. In order to do so, we perform the replacement

$$f(k \rightarrow \pm\infty) \rightarrow g(k \rightarrow \pm\infty) \equiv 2^{2\alpha} \Gamma(1-2\alpha) \frac{\sin(\alpha\pi)}{\pi |k|^{1-2\alpha}}. \quad (120)$$

$f(k \rightarrow \infty)$ and $g(k \rightarrow \infty)$ have the same value for integer k , but they are different for non-integer ones.

Being guided by the asymptotic behavior for large k , we can employ the same trick for the full $f(k)$ in order to have the correct analytic continuation. We perform the replacement

$$f(k) \rightarrow g(k) \equiv \frac{f(k) \sin(\pi\alpha) e^{i\pi k}}{\sin[\pi(\alpha + |k|)]} = \frac{2^{2\alpha} \Gamma(1-2\alpha) \sin(\pi\alpha)}{\sin[\pi(\alpha + |k|)] \Gamma(1-\alpha+k) \Gamma(1-\alpha-k)} \quad (121)$$

$$= \frac{4^\alpha \sin(\pi\alpha) \Gamma(1-2\alpha) \sin[\pi(\alpha - |k|)] \Gamma(\alpha - k) \Gamma(\alpha + k)}{\pi^2}. \quad (122)$$

Again, $f(k)$ and $g(k)$ have the same values for integer k , but it is easy to check that while $f(k)$ oscillates for non integer k (signaling 'bad exponential' behavior at $\pm i\infty$), $g(k)$ is monotonic.

The sum for $s_2(n)$ can be rewritten as

$$s_2(n) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} [ng(nk) - g(k)] = \frac{n-1}{2} g(0) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} [ng(nk) - g(k)], \quad (123)$$

that is the *analytic continuation we were searching for*, but valid only for $\alpha < 1/2$. As stressed above, this sum is convergent if for the first and second piece that same cutoff is used and after sent to ∞ . We performed numerically this sum for non-integer n finding perfect agreement with the results in Ref. [1] obtained by Borel resummation. Fig. 2 shows the difference in the summation of $s_2(n)$ obtained for non-integer n while using the function $g(k)$ instead of $f(k)$.

Eq. (123) allows analytic manipulations that give the exact result for $n = 1$. Let us use the integral representation of the product of Γ functions

$$\Gamma(p)\Gamma(q) = 2\Gamma(p+q) \int_0^{\pi/2} (\cos \phi)^{2p-1} (\sin \phi)^{2q-1} d\phi, \quad (124)$$

to rewrite

$$\begin{aligned} g(k) &= \frac{4^\alpha \sin(\pi\alpha) \Gamma(1-2\alpha)}{\pi^2} \sin[\pi(\alpha - |k|)] 2\Gamma(2\alpha) \int_0^{\pi/2} (\cos \phi)^{2\alpha-2k-1} (\sin \phi)^{2\alpha+2k-1} d\phi \\ &= \frac{2^{2\alpha} \sec(\pi\alpha)}{\pi} \sin[\pi(\alpha - |k|)] \int_0^{\pi/2} \left(\frac{\sin 2\phi}{2}\right)^{2\alpha-1} (\tan \phi)^{2k} d\phi, \end{aligned} \quad (125)$$

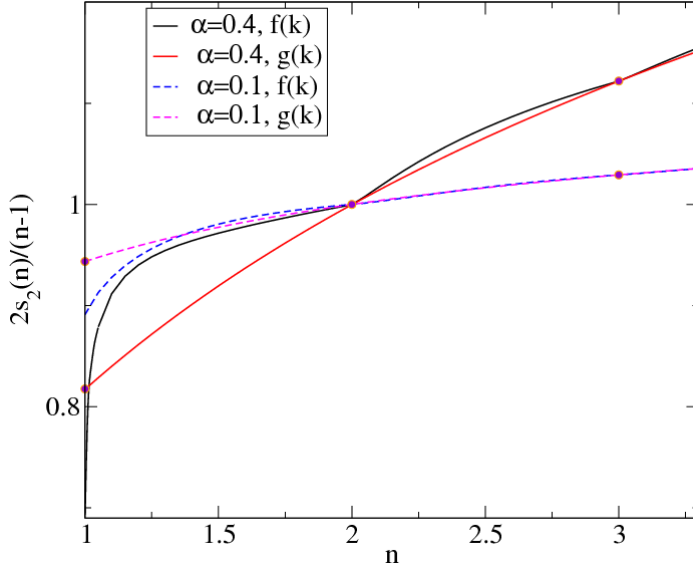


Figure 2. This figure shows the importance of the Carlson's theorem to choose the correct analytic continuation. For two values of α (0.1 and 0.4), we report $s_n/(n-1)$ as function of n , as obtained by summing with the function $f(k)$ and $g(k)$ (i.e. using Eq. (118) or Eq. (123) respectively). It is evident that when using $f(k)$ an oscillatory behavior (with period 1) is superimposed to a smooth curve, while for $g(k)$ the resulting $s_2(n)$ is smooth. For integer numbers ≥ 2 they have the same value, as they should. The limits for $n \rightarrow 1$ are very different and the one obtained from $g(k)$ is the correct one.

where we used also $4^\alpha \Gamma(1-2\alpha) \sin(\alpha\pi) 2\Gamma(2\alpha)/\pi^2 = 2^{2\alpha} \sec(\pi\alpha)/\pi$.

In order to evaluate $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} ng(nk)$, we exchange the order of sum and integration. Calling $v = \tan \phi$, we need the sum

$$I_n = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \sin[\pi(\alpha - nk)] v^{2kn} = \frac{v^{2n} [\sin(\pi(\alpha - n)) - \sin(\pi\alpha)v^{2n}]}{v^{4n} - 2\cos(\pi n)v^{2n} + 1}, \quad (126)$$

that is strictly valid only for $|v| < 1$ (i.e. $\phi < \pi/4$), but we will assume its validity everywhere. It is easy to take the derivative of nI_n wrt n and set $n = 1$, obtaining

$$\begin{aligned} \left. \frac{\partial(nI_n)}{\partial n} \right|_{n=1} &= \frac{v^2}{(1+v^2)^2} [\pi \cos(\pi\alpha) - (1+v^2 + 2\log v) \sin(\pi\alpha)] \\ &= \sin^2(\phi) \cos^2(\phi) [\pi \cos(\pi\alpha) - \sin(\pi\alpha) [\sec^2 \phi + 2\log(\tan \phi)]]. \end{aligned} \quad (127)$$

Plugging the various pieces together we have[¶]

$$2s'_2(1) = g(0) + \frac{1}{\pi \cos(\pi\alpha)} \left[\int_0^{\pi/2} (\sin 2\phi)^{2\alpha+1} \pi \cos(\pi\alpha) \right]$$

[¶] The following integrals are useful for this calculation:

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{\pi/2} (\sin 2\phi)^{2\alpha+1} &= \frac{\sqrt{\pi} \Gamma(\alpha+1)}{2\Gamma(\alpha+\frac{3}{2})}, \\ \int_0^{\pi/2} (\sin 2\phi)^{2\alpha+1} (2\log \tan \phi + \sec^2 \phi) &= \frac{\sqrt{\pi} \Gamma(\alpha)}{\Gamma(\alpha+\frac{1}{2})} = \frac{4^\alpha \Gamma(1-2\alpha)}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)^2} \frac{\pi}{\tan \pi\alpha}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& - \int_0^{\pi/2} (\sin 2\phi)^{2\alpha+1} \sin(\pi\alpha) (\sec^2 \phi + 2 \log(\tan \phi)) \Big] \\
& = \frac{4^\alpha \Gamma(1-2\alpha)}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)^2} + \frac{\sqrt{\pi} \Gamma(\alpha+1)}{2\Gamma(\alpha+\frac{3}{2})} - \frac{\tan(\pi\alpha) \Gamma(\alpha)}{\sqrt{\pi} \Gamma(\alpha+\frac{1}{2})} = \frac{\sqrt{\pi} \Gamma(\alpha+1)}{2\Gamma(\alpha+\frac{3}{2})}, \quad (128)
\end{aligned}$$

that is the result anticipated in Eq. (14), where we restored the multiplicative factor \mathcal{N} . While this result has been derived for $\alpha < 1/2$, the final form of $s'_2(1)$ is analytic all the way up to $\alpha = \infty$ and indeed it agrees both with the numerical results of Ref. [1] for all $\alpha < 1$ and it is straightforward to show that for positive integer α reproduces the right result (in this case, $s_2(n)$ is a polynomial [18] and it is easy to find $s'_2(1)$).

6.1. Consequences for the Ising model

In the case of the Ising model, the first order in x of the scaling function $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ is half of the result for free boson at $\alpha = 1/4$ (cf. Eq. (84)). Thus the scaling function for the entanglement entropy is

$$\mathcal{F}_{VN}(x) = \frac{\partial}{\partial n} \mathcal{F}_n(x) \Big|_{n=1} = \frac{\sqrt{\pi} \Gamma(\frac{5}{4})}{4\sqrt{2} \Gamma(\frac{7}{4})} x^{1/4} + O(x^{1/2}) = 0.309012 \dots x^{1/4} + \dots \quad (129)$$

Note the numerical value of the amplitude of the term $x^{1/4}$ is close to (but definitively different than) $1/\pi = 0.318 \dots$, that was proposed in Ref. [15] on the basis of purely numerical results. We checked that the numerical precision of the data in Ref. [15] does not allow to distinguish between these too close values.

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Appendix A. Mapping of two intervals to the cylinder geometry

Some of the discussion of the main part of the paper may be more readily comprehended if we conformally map the n -sheeted conifold consisting of n planes connected along the two intervals, to another consisting of n open cylinders connected in a certain way along their top and bottom edges.

For a single plane, cut open along the upper and lower edges of the intervals (u_1, v_1) and (u_2, v_2) there is a conformal mapping (whose explicit expression is not needed) to a cylinder of circumference W and length L . We introduce the modular parameter $q = e^{-2\pi L/W}$ which is a known function of the cross-ratio x of the original four points in the plane. The limit $x \rightarrow 0$ corresponds to $q \rightarrow 0$. The upper and lower edges of the cuts are mapped into semicircular arcs (S_{1L}, S_{1R}) and (S_{2L}, S_{2R}) at each

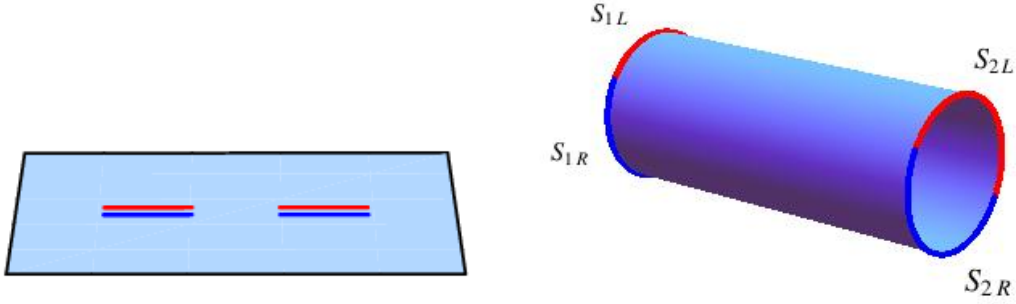


Figure A1. The cut plane represented on the left can be mapped through a conformal transformation to a cylinder of length L and circumference W (right) and so modular parameter $q = e^{-2\pi L/W}$. The upper and lower edges of the cuts are mapped into semicircular arcs (S_{1L}, S_{1R}) and (S_{2L}, S_{2R}) at each end of the open cylinder.

end of the open cylinder. This is illustrated in Fig. A1. We do this for each plane, labelled by $j \in [1, n]$. These are then connected cyclically by their edges so that $S_{1R}^{(j)}$ is connected to $S_{1L}^{(j+1)}$ and $S_{2R}^{(j)}$ is connected to $S_{2L}^{(j+1)}$. The case $n = 4$ is shown in Fig. A2.

Note, however, that this in general introduces new conical singularities at the points where the semicircles meet. The total angle subtended by a curve which encloses a singularity is now πn , rather than $2\pi n$ as in the original geometry. This changes the value of the trace anomaly at each singularity from $(c/12)(n - (1/n))$ to $(c/12)((n/2) - (2/n))$. The partition function in the coupled cylinder geometry thus has the form

$$Z_n^{\text{cylinder}} \propto W^{-(c/3)((n/2)-(2/n))} \mathcal{F}_n^{\text{cyl}}(q). \quad (\text{A.1})$$

However, the non-trivial dependence on q should be conformally invariant, that is

$$\mathcal{F}_n^{\text{cyl}}(q(x)) = \mathcal{F}_n(x), \quad (\text{A.2})$$

where $\mathcal{F}_n(x)$ is the same function as in (3). We assume they are both normalized so that $\mathcal{F}_n^{\text{cyl}}(0) = \mathcal{F}_n(0) = 1$.

Note in particular that for $n = 2$ there is no trace anomaly. This because in this case, one of the cylinders can be reflected $L \leftrightarrow R$ so that $S_{1L}^{(1)}$ is now sewn onto $S_{1L}^{(2)}$ and $S_{2L}^{(1)}$ is sewn onto $S_{2L}^{(2)}$. For $n = 2$ we can also reflect the second cylinder in the plane of one of its ends. This gives a cylinder of length $2L$ with its opposite ends identified, that is a torus, with modular parameter $e^{-4\pi L/W} = q^2$. As is well-known [32] the torus partition function encodes all the scaling dimensions of the theory, that is

$$\mathcal{F}_2^{\text{cyl}}(q) = 1 + \sum_{k \neq 0} (q^2)^{\Delta_k + \bar{\Delta}_k}. \quad (\text{A.3})$$

This is consistent with our result above that, for $n = 2$, only terms involving the 2-point functions of primary operators can arise in the small ℓ expansion of \mathcal{F}_2 , which has the form

$$\mathcal{F}_2 \propto \sum_{\text{primaries}} d_k (\ell_1 \ell_2 / r^2)^{2(\Delta_k + \bar{\Delta}_k)} + \dots, \quad (\text{A.4})$$

where $d_k = \sum_{j \neq j'} d_{k;jj'}^2$, and the neglected terms are the contributions of descendant fields. Presumably the full identity of the above two expressions involves a complicated connection between these neglected terms and the higher order terms of the expansion of $q(x)$ in powers of x .

It is interesting to consider computing Z_n^{cylinder} for general n as a similar expansion in powers of q . This can be done by considering the infinitesimal generator \hat{H} of translations along each cylinder. As is well known [32], the eigenstates $|k\rangle$ of \hat{H} are in 1-1 correspondence with the scaling fields of the CFT, with corresponding eigenvalue $(2\pi/W)(\Delta_k + \bar{\Delta}_k) - (\pi c/6W)$. The last term drops out if we normalize so that $\mathcal{F}_n^{\text{cyl}}(q=0) = 1$. Now divide the Hilbert space into two subspaces \mathcal{H}_L and \mathcal{H}_R corresponding to the L and R halves of the cylinder. Then each state admits a

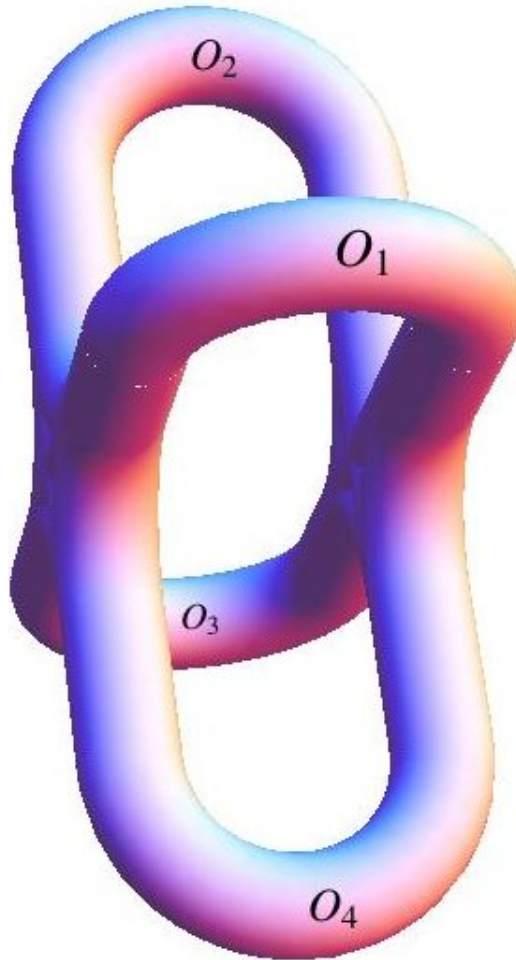


Figure A2. The equivalent of the n -sheeted Riemann surface (with $n = 4$) for the cylinder geometry. O_j represents the operator “propagating” in the cylinder j .

Schmidt decomposition

$$|k\rangle = \sum_{\alpha} c_{k\alpha} |k; \alpha\rangle_L \otimes |\widetilde{k}; \alpha\rangle_R. \quad (\text{A.5})$$

Note the parity operator \hat{P} which reflects $L \leftrightarrow R$ (and corresponds to complex conjugation in the planar geometry) gives an isomorphism between \mathcal{H}_L and \mathcal{H}_R . However, the states $|k; \alpha\rangle_L$ and $|\widetilde{k}; \alpha\rangle_R$ generated by the Schmidt procedure are not in general mapped into each other by this isomorphism.

Since the states $|k\rangle$ form an orthonormal basis,

$$\sum_{\alpha\alpha'} c_{k\alpha} c_{k'\alpha'} \langle k; \alpha | k'; \alpha' \rangle_L \langle \widetilde{k}; \alpha | \widetilde{k}'; \alpha' \rangle_R = \delta_{kk'}. \quad (\text{A.6})$$

For $k = k'$ this follows from the orthonormality of the Schmidt states and the fact that $\sum_{\alpha} c_{k\alpha}^2 = 1$, but in general it is not true that $|k, \alpha\rangle$ and $|k', \alpha'\rangle$ are orthogonal for $k \neq k'$.

We make this decomposition for each end of each cylinder, labelled by j . The sewing procedure is then equivalent to taking inner products of states in the L space on cylinder j with those in the R space of cylinder $j + 1$. Explicitly

$$\mathcal{F}_n^{\text{cyl}}(q) \propto \sum_{\{k_j\}} \left(\sum_{\{\alpha_j\}} \prod_{j=1}^n c_{k_j \alpha_j} \langle k_j; \alpha_j | k_{j+1}; \widetilde{\alpha}_{j+1} \rangle \right)^2 q^{\sum_j (\Delta_{k_j} + \overline{\Delta}_{k_j})}, \quad (\text{A.7})$$

where we have dropped the distinction between \mathcal{H}_L and \mathcal{H}_R , assuming that these are identified using the isomorphism under \hat{P} . However, when n is even we can relabel the basis for each even j so that $|k_j; \alpha_j\rangle \leftrightarrow |\widetilde{k}_j; \alpha_j\rangle$ and $\Delta_k \leftrightarrow \overline{\Delta}_k$ (equivalent to reflecting cylinders with j even). The expression inside the modulus sign then becomes

$$\sum_{\{\alpha_j\}} \left(\prod_{j \text{ odd}}^n c_{k_j \alpha_j} \langle k_j; \alpha_j | k_{j+1}; \alpha_{j+1} \rangle \right) \left(\prod_{j \text{ even}}^n c_{k_j \alpha_j} \langle \widetilde{k}_j; \alpha_j | k_{j+1}; \widetilde{\alpha}_{j+1} \rangle \right). \quad (\text{A.8})$$

(For odd n we can do this with $(n-1)/2$ of the cylinders, leaving a single factor of $\langle k_j; \alpha_j | k_{j+1}; \widetilde{\alpha}_{j+1} \rangle$.)

For $n = 2$ we then see that the sum between the modulus sign has the same form as that in (A.6) and therefore we recover the torus partition function (A.3).

It is illuminating to write (A.7) in another way. Introduce the operators $\hat{M}_k : \mathcal{H}_L \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_L$:

$$\hat{M}_k \equiv \sum_{\alpha} c_{k\alpha} |\widetilde{k}; \alpha\rangle \langle k; \alpha|. \quad (\text{A.9})$$

Then the expression in parentheses in (A.7) is simply

$$\text{Tr}_{\mathcal{H}_L} \prod_{j=1}^n \hat{M}_{k_j}. \quad (\text{A.10})$$

Note that under the parity operation $\hat{M} \leftrightarrow \hat{M}^\dagger$. The fact that we can reflect an arbitrary number of the cylinders without changing the partition function means that we can, in the above matrix product, change $\hat{M}_{k_j} \rightarrow \hat{M}_{k_j}^\dagger$ in any number of the factors, up to a sign. In fact the sign is determined by the parities of the states $|k_j\rangle$: since \hat{P} commutes with \hat{H} , the eigenstates $|k\rangle$ can be chosen also to be eigenstates of \hat{P}

with eigenvalues $(-1)^{\Delta_{k_j} - \bar{\Delta}_{k_j}}$. Note however that we should make the same set of replacements $\hat{M} \rightarrow \hat{M}^\dagger$ for all $\{k_j\}$.

However, we can make a stronger statement, based on the observation that we can consider the modulus q_j of the j th cylinder to depend on j , and also to be complex, corresponding to twisting the cylinder before the sewing procedure. This no longer corresponds to computing the Rényi entropy, but still makes mathematical sense. In this case the q -dependence in (A.7) is generalized to the form $\prod_j q_j^{\Delta_j} \bar{q}_j^{\bar{\Delta}_j}$. Therefore the identity between the different expressions obtained by reflecting each cylinder independently must also hold for each set $\{k_j\}$ with the same values of $\{\Delta_{k_j}\}$ and $\{\bar{\Delta}_{k_j}\}$. The consequence of this is most easily seen in the case when all the $\{k_j\}$ correspond to primary operators. Then, barring accidental degeneracies,

$$\text{Tr} \left(\hat{M}_{k_1} \hat{M}_{k_2} \cdots \hat{M}_{k_n} \right), \quad (\text{A.11})$$

is invariant, up to a sign determined by the overall parity, on replacing any subset of the \hat{M}_{k_j} by their hermitian conjugates. Since this must be true for arbitrary n , the simplest solution is that $\hat{M}_k^\dagger = \pm \hat{M}_k$. In the more general case, there is a finite-dimensional space of descendent operators with the same values of $(\Delta_k, \bar{\Delta}_k)$, and we have

$$\hat{M}_k^\dagger = \sum_{k'} A_{kk'} \hat{M}_{k'}, \quad (\text{A.12})$$

where the sum is restricted to operators within this space, and $A^* A = 1$.

We can express the results of Sec. 3 in this formalism. The case $n = 1$ corresponds to a sphere, which has no modulus and therefore there should be no q -dependence. This implies that $\text{Tr} \hat{M}_k \propto \delta_{k0}$. Similarly, for $n = 2$, we have $\text{Tr} \hat{M}_k \hat{M}_{k'} \propto \delta_{kk'}$.

If we take all the $k_j = 0$ we get the leading term in the partition function as $q \rightarrow 0$:

$$\text{Tr} \hat{M}_0^n \propto W^{-(c/3)((n/2)-(2/n))}. \quad (\text{A.13})$$

For even n , we can also write the left side as

$$\text{Tr} (\hat{M}_0 \hat{M}_0^\dagger)^{n/2} = \sum_{\alpha} c_{0\alpha}^n. \quad (\text{A.14})$$

For odd n we get $\text{Tr} (C_0^{n-1} \hat{M}_0)$, where C_0 is a diagonal matrix with entries $c_{0\alpha}$. This gives information about the spectrum of \hat{M}_0 and, since this is valid for all n , suggests that its non-zero eigenvalues are simply c_{0k} . However, since \mathcal{H}_L is infinite-dimensional, this may not hold in a strong sense.

Once this overall W dependence is factored out, we see, that, at least for primary operators

$$\text{Tr} \prod_{j=1}^n \hat{M}_{k_j} \propto \left\langle \prod_j \phi_{k_j} (e^{2\pi i j/n}) \right\rangle_{\mathbf{C}}, \quad (\text{A.15})$$

where the rhs is the n -point function at the n th roots of unity in the plane. It would be interesting to explore the properties of the operators \hat{M}_k further, as they appear to encode the entanglement properties of the theory in a slightly different way. The operators ϕ_{k_j} in Eq. (A.15) can be thought as ‘‘propagating’’ in the cylinders as pictorially shown in Fig. A2 (where they have been called O_j).

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