

D3/D7 quark-gluon plasma with magnetically induced anisotropy

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ABSTRACT: We study the effects of the temperature and of a magnetic field in the setup of an intersection of D3/D7 branes, where a large number of D7 branes is smeared in the transverse directions to allow for a perturbative solution in a backreaction parameter. The magnetic field sources an anisotropy in the plasma, and we investigate its physical consequences for the thermodynamics and energy loss of particles probing the system. In particular we comment on the stress-energy tensor of the plasma, the propagation of sound in the directions parallel and orthogonal to the magnetic field, the drag force of a quark moving through the medium and jet quenching.

KEYWORDS: AdS-CFT Correspondence, Holography and quark-gluon plasmas

ARXIV EPRINT: [1207.1047](https://arxiv.org/abs/1207.1047)

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Constructing the black hole	4
2.1	Setup	4
2.2	Effective actions and equations of motion	5
2.3	Perturbative solution	7
2.4	Hierarchy of scales and regime of validity of the supergravity solution	11
3	Thermodynamics	13
3.1	Smarr formula	13
3.2	Thermodynamic potentials	15
3.3	Speed of sound	16
4	Stress-energy tensor with a magnetic field	18
4.1	Expectations	18
4.2	Holographic calculation	19
5	Energy loss in the magnetically anisotropic plasma	21
5.1	Drag force	22
5.2	Jet quenching	25
6	Conclusions	28
A	Equations of motion from the effective action	29
B	Analytic perturbative solution of the equations of motion	31
C	Calculation of the Gibbs free energy	34
D	ADM energy and Brown-York tensor	35

1 Introduction

One of the amazing developments emerging from the research in string theory, is the idea of a gauge/gravity correspondence [1]. The remarkable feature of this correspondence is that it relates the strongly coupled regime of the gauge theory to the weakly coupled regime of the string theory and vice-versa. Consequently, it has become a powerful tool in studying strongly interacting systems by using a conjectured dual weakly coupled string/gravitational theory. At present, holographic descriptions of non-perturbative

phenomena include, among others applications to condensed matter physics, high energy physics and quark-gluon plasma.

One of the most distinctive uses of the gauge/gravity correspondence has been the study of the physics of heavy ion collisions. Through collisions at Brookhaven and LHC a strongly coupled plasma of quarks and gluons was created which cannot be described by the standard perturbative techniques. Also other methods such as Lattice Gauge theory fail in computing transport coefficients of the plasma and the rapid thermalization rate of the quark gluon plasma observed. This is where the gauge/gravity duality enters in the field and provides interesting new insights. For example, for large- N gauge theories at strong coupling, gauge/gravity duality predicts that the ratio of the shear viscosity to entropy density is $1/4\pi$ (see [2]) in natural units and therefore very close to the measured value. The small value of the ratio of the shear viscosity to entropy density can be understood as an effect of the strong coupling of the system. Within the framework of Gauge/Gravity duality we can also compute the thermalization rate $\tau_{th} \sim 0.5\text{fm}$ of the plasma [3, 4], which is in agreement with the observed value indicating again the strong coupling nature of the plasma. The energy loss of the heavy/energetic partons in the plasma also acquires a gravity dual description (see [5, 6]).

Despite the remarkable insights into the quark-gluon plasma and QCD in general gained by studying gauge/gravity dualities, the application of the correspondence to real-world systems such as QCD remains a challenge and has to be developed further. So far, we do not have a rigorous string dual of QCD at hand. However, under extreme external parameters (such as temperature and chemical potential) different gauge theories exhibit similar properties. Therefore, it is natural to apply holographic techniques to study phenomena which are believed to be of universal nature.

An important example in this class of phenomena is the effect of mass generation and spontaneous chiral symmetry breaking in the presence of an external magnetic field. The effect is known as magnetic catalysis and has been shown insensitive to the microscopic physics underlying the low energy effective theory. Using conventional field theory methods, the magnetic catalysis has been demonstrated in various (1+2) and (1+3)-dimensional field theories [7–12], while the holographic study of the effect initiated in [13].¹ Additional holographic studies of magnetic catalysis at finite temperature or chemical potential appear in [15–30].

Until recently all the holographic studies of the magnetic catalysis were in the probe approximation, where the backreaction of the flavor branes on the supergravity background is neglected [31]. On the field theory side, this corresponds to an approximation in which the flavor degrees of freedom N_f are much smaller than the color ones N_c . Unquenching the holographic description means a large number of flavor branes that backreact on the geometry. Due to the technical difficulties that arise from a set of localized flavor branes, we distribute them along the compact directions [32]. This procedure is called smearing² and restores a significant part of the global symmetry of the geometry.

¹For a comprehensive review we refer the reader to [14].

²For a detailed review on the smearing see the review [33], while for other solutions employing this technique that appeared after the review see [34–42].

A promising framework for the construction of such a geometry was started in [43], where the ten-dimensional supergravity solutions including the backreaction of a large number of D7-branes in $AdS_5 \times X_5$ (with X_5 any squashed Sasaki-Einstein manifold) was introduced. This was further developed in [44], where the black-hole solution dual to the non-conformal plasma of flavored $\mathcal{N} = 4$ supersymmetric Yang-Mills theory is presented.³ The authors outline the smearing procedure, derive the corresponding equations of motion and present a perturbative solution for general massless non-supersymmetric flavor D7-brane embeddings.

The first steps towards unquenching the holographic description of magnetic catalysis have been undertaken in [49] and [50]. More specifically in [49], a string dual to $SU(N_c)$ $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM coupled to N_f *massless* fundamental flavors in the presence of an external magnetic field is presented. For sufficiently strong magnetic field, the supergravity background is unstable, suggesting that the theory undergoes a phase transition to a stable phase with dynamically generated mass for the matter fields. In [50], the external magnetic field couples to N_f *massive* fundamental flavors and the background has a hollow cavity in the bulk of the geometry, where it is similar to the supergravity dual of a $\mathcal{N} = 1$ non-commutative SYM. The radius of this cavity is related to the dynamically generated mass of the fundamental fields. After developing an appropriate renormalization scheme, the free energy and the condensate can be expanded in powers of the perturbative parameter. While at leading order, both agree with the previously obtained results in the probe approximation, at next to leading order the effect of magnetic catalysis is enhanced and the contribution to the condensate runs logarithmically with the finite cutoff Λ_{UV} .

An overview of the paper is as follows: In section 2 we continue the studies initiated in [49, 50] and present a string dual to the finite temperature $SU(N_c)$ $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM coupled to N_f *massless* fundamental matter in the presence of an external magnetic field. The solution is analytic and perturbative in a parameter that counts the number of internal fundamental loops. Given the non illuminating expressions for the functions of the background we provide some numerical plots, and since we have a perturbative solution we supplement it with a hierarchy of scales.

In section 3 we study the thermodynamics of the anisotropic black hole, which provides a non trivial check for the validity of the gravity solution. Since the solution is first order in the expansion parameter, our computations have some overlap with those of [51] and extend those of [44] in the presence of an external magnetic field. While in the absence of a magnetic field the breaking of conformal invariance happens at second order in the expansion parameter [44, 47, 52], in its presence conformal invariance breaks at first order.

In section 4 we holographically calculate the stress energy tensor of the boundary field theory. The presence of the magnetic field sources an anisotropy in the medium, which is realized through a difference between the pressure transverse to the magnetic field and the pressure along the direction of the magnetic field. We present thermodynamic arguments supporting the holographic computation.

³All the hydrodynamic transport coefficients of the model were analyzed in [45, 46], while the addition of a finite baryon density was presented in [47]. For a review on unquenching the Quark Gluon Plasma see [48].

In section 5 we calculate the energy loss of the partons as they propagate through the anisotropic plasma. The jet quenching parameter depends on the relative orientation between the anisotropic direction, the direction of motion of the parton and the direction along which the momentum broadening is measured. We consider a parton moving parallel to the magnetic field with the momentum broadening taking place in the transverse plane. The presence of the magnetic field enhances or reduces the jet quenching parameter of a theory without magnetic field, depending on the conditions we use to make the comparison. The drag force experienced by an infinitely massive quark propagating at a general angle through the plasma is calculated using an appropriate set up to compensate the Lorentz force on the probe quark. In this way we obtain an expression reflecting the anisotropy of the plasma due to the external magnetic field.

2 Constructing the black hole

The present section is devoted to the construction of a supergravity background describing an anisotropic black hole. The field theory duals are realized on the intersection between a set of N_c color D3-branes and a set of N_f , homogeneously smeared, flavor D7-branes, with an additional coupling between the fundamental fields and an external magnetic field.

2.1 Setup

The smearing of the flavor D7-branes allows for an ansatz where all the functions of the background depend just on the radial coordinate. Having this in mind and inspired by [44, 49, 50], we adopt the following ansatz for the metric

$$ds_{10}^2 = h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \left[- b_T^2 dt^2 + b (dx_1^2 + dx_2^2) + dx_3^2 \right] + h^{\frac{1}{2}} \left[b^2 b_T^2 S^8 F^2 d\sigma^2 + S^2 ds_{CP^2}^2 + F^2 (d\tau + A_{CP^2})^2 \right], \quad (2.1)$$

where the CP^2 metric is given by

$$ds_{CP^2}^2 = \frac{1}{4} d\chi^2 + \frac{1}{4} \cos^2 \frac{\chi}{2} (d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2) + \frac{1}{4} \cos^2 \frac{\chi}{2} \sin^2 \frac{\chi}{2} (d\psi + \cos \theta d\varphi)^2, \\ A_{CP^2} = \frac{1}{2} \cos^2 \frac{\chi}{2} (d\psi + \cos \theta d\varphi). \quad (2.2)$$

The range of the angles is $0 \leq (\chi, \theta) \leq \pi$, $0 \leq (\varphi, \tau) < 2\pi$, $0 \leq \psi < 4\pi$. The ansatz for the NSNS and the RR field strengths is given by

$$B_2 = H dx^1 \wedge dx^2, \quad C_2 = J dt \wedge dx^3, \\ F_5 = Q_c (1 + *)\varepsilon(S^5), \quad F_1 = Q_f (d\tau + A_{CP^2}), \quad F_3 = dC_2 + B_2 \wedge F_1, \quad (2.3)$$

where $\varepsilon(S_5)$ is the volume element of the internal space⁴ and Q_c, Q_f are related to the number of different colors and flavors in the following way

$$N_c = \frac{Q_c \text{Vol}(X_{SE})}{(2\pi)^4 g_s \alpha'^2}, \quad N_f = \frac{4 Q_f \text{Vol}(X_{SE})}{\text{Vol}(X_3) g_s}. \quad (2.4)$$

⁴With $\int \varepsilon(S_5) = \text{Vol}(S^5) = \pi^3$.

In our case $X_{SE} = S^5$ and the $X_3 = S^3$, a 3-sphere with volume $2\pi^2$. The fact that the flavors are massless is encoded in the independence of F_1 on σ , see [43, 53]. All the functions that appear in the ansatz, h, b_T, b, S, F, Φ, J and H , depend on the radial variable σ only. In the convention we follow, S and F have dimensions of length, b, b_T, h, J and H are dimensionless and σ has a dimension of length⁻⁴. The function b in the ansatz for the metric reflects the breaking of the $SO(1,3)$ Lorentz symmetry down to $SO(1,1) \times SO(2)$. The blackening function b_T allows for the existence of solutions with a black brane, whose horizon sits at a position σ_h such that $b_T(\sigma_h) = 0$, and which allows to study the field theory at finite temperature.

Solving the 10d equation of motion for F_3 , we need to impose the following relation

$$J' = Q_c \frac{e^{-\Phi} b_T^2}{h} (H - H_0), \tag{2.5}$$

where H_0 is an integration constant. In the next subsection we will keep the function J and will see how this relation appears from an effective one-dimensional Lagrangian.

2.2 Effective actions and equations of motion

The action for the Type IIB supergravity plus the contribution from the N_f D7-branes in the Einstein frame is

$$S = S_{IIB} + S_{fl}, \tag{2.6}$$

where the relevant terms of the S_{IIB} action are

$$S_{IIB} = \frac{1}{2\kappa_{10}^2} \int d^{10}x \sqrt{-g} \left[R - \frac{1}{2} \partial_M \Phi \partial^M \Phi - \frac{1}{2} e^{2\Phi} F_{(1)}^2 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{3!} e^{\Phi} F_{(3)}^2 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{5!} F_{(5)}^2 \right. \tag{2.7}$$

$$\left. - \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{3!} e^{-\Phi} H_{(3)}^2 \right] - \frac{1}{2\kappa_{10}^2} \int C_4 \wedge H_3 \wedge F_3,$$

and the action for the flavor D7-branes takes the usual DBI+WZ form

$$S_{fl} = -T_7 \sum_{N_f} \left[\int d^8x e^{\Phi} \sqrt{-\det(\hat{G} + e^{-\Phi/2} \mathcal{F})} - \int (\hat{C}_8 + \hat{C}_6 \wedge \mathcal{F}) \right], \tag{2.8}$$

with $\mathcal{F} \equiv \hat{B}_2 + 2\pi\alpha' F$. In those expressions B_2 denotes a non-constant NSNS potential which will model the magnetic field, F the worldvolume gauge field and the hat refers to the pullback of the quantities, along the worldvolume directions of the D7-brane. The gravitational constant and D7-brane tension, in terms of string parameters, are

$$\frac{1}{2\kappa_{10}^2} = \frac{T_7}{g_s} = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^7 g_s^2 \alpha'^4}. \tag{2.9}$$

We plug our ansatze, (2.1) and (2.3), into (2.6) and integrate out all the directions except the radial one, since the dependence is trivial. After an integration by parts to get rid of second derivatives we obtain the following expression

$$S_{\text{eff}} = \frac{\pi^3 V_{1,3}}{2\kappa_{10}^2} \int \mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} d\sigma \tag{2.10}$$

where $V_{1,3}$ is the volume of the Minkowski space and the one-dimensional effective lagrangian \mathcal{L}_{eff} is given appendix A. Since the function J enters in the effective action only via its radial derivative, there is a first integration given by a conserved quantity. We fix this constant of motion in the following way

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}}{\partial J'} \equiv -Q_c H_0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad J' = \frac{e^{-\Phi} Q_c b_T^2}{h} (H - H_0) . \quad (2.11)$$

which is precisely (2.5). The next step is to use (2.11) to eliminate J' in favor of H in (2.10), after performing the following Legendre transformation

$$\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_{\text{eff}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} - \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}}{\delta J'} J' \Big|_{J' \equiv J'(H)} , \quad (2.12)$$

and then calculate the Euler-Lagrange equations from the transformed action (2.12). The equations of motion are given in appendix A.

Setting $Q_f = 0$ in the transformed action, the Euler-Lagrange equations imply that a solution with $H \neq 0$ is given by (black) $AdS_5 \times X_{SE}$ with $\Phi = \Phi_*$ and $H = H_0$ constants. We will use this solution later on as a starting point to obtain a black brane solution with backreacted flavor in the presence of a non trivial H .

It is worth noting that by demanding $\partial_{J'} \mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} = -Q_c H_0$ exactly, with H_0 the value of the magnetic field in the unflavored limit, we are enforcing the field J to vanish when $N_f \rightarrow 0$. As such, J reflects magnetic effects by providing a field connected holographically to the magnetization of the system, as we will see.

The equation for the blackening factor (A.3) decouples from the rest and can be solved analytically

$$b_T^2 = e^{-4r_h^4 \sigma} , \quad (2.13)$$

where r_h is a non-extremality parameter coming from the integration constants. The position of the horizon is at $\sigma \rightarrow \infty$, whereas the boundary would be at $\sigma = 0$ (there is an additional integration constant corresponding to a shift in σ , which we set to zero).

Reduced five-dimensional action. For the calculation of the stress-energy tensor in section 4, we find convenient to write as well a truncated five-dimensional action, obtained after integrating out the compact Sasaki-Einstein manifold in (2.1). Denoting the effective metric as $g_{\mu\nu}$, the action is

$$S_{5d} = \frac{1}{2\kappa_5^2} \int d^5x \sqrt{-g} [\mathcal{L}_{\text{kin}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{pot}}] + \frac{1}{2\kappa_5^2} \int d^5x \mathcal{L}_{\text{top}} , \quad (2.14)$$

where the kinetic, potential and topological terms are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{kin}} = & R[g] - \frac{40}{3} \partial_\mu f \partial^\mu f - 20 \partial_\mu w \partial^\mu w - \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \Phi \partial^\mu \Phi - \frac{1}{12} e^{\Phi - \frac{20}{3} f} F_{\mu\nu\rho} F^{\mu\nu\rho} \\ & - \frac{1}{12} e^{-\Phi - \frac{20}{3} f} H_{\mu\nu\rho} H^{\mu\nu\rho}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.15)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{pot}} = & -4e^{\frac{16}{3}f+2w} (e^{10w} - 6) - \frac{Q_f^2}{2} e^{\frac{16}{3}f-8w+2\Phi} - \frac{Q_f^2}{4} e^{\Phi-\frac{4}{3}f-8w} B_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu} - \frac{Q_c^2}{2} e^{\frac{40}{3}f} \\ & - 4Q_f e^{\frac{\Phi}{2}+2f+2w} \sqrt{e^{\Phi+\frac{20}{3}f} + \frac{1}{2} B_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu}}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.16)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{top}} = -\frac{Q_c}{4} \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma\tau} B_{\mu\nu} \partial_\rho C_{\sigma\tau}, \quad (2.17)$$

with the convention $\varepsilon^{txyzr} = 1$ for the completely antisymmetric symbol. To make contact with the ansatz presented in section 2.1 we identify $\kappa_5^2 = \kappa_{10}^2/V_{SE}$ and

$$f = -\frac{1}{5} \log \left[S^4 F h^{\frac{5}{4}} \right], \quad w = \frac{1}{5} \log \left[\frac{F}{S} \right], \quad H_3 = dB_2, \quad F_3 = dC_2, \quad (2.18)$$

$$g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu \equiv e^{-\frac{10}{3}f} h^{-\frac{1}{2}} \left[-b_T^2 dt^2 + b(dx_1^2 + dx_2^2) + dx_3^2 + e^{-10f} h^{-\frac{3}{2}} b^2 b_T^2 d\sigma^2 \right],$$

$$B_2 = \frac{1}{2} B_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu \wedge dx^\nu = H(\sigma) dx \wedge dy, \quad C_2 = \frac{1}{2} C_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu \wedge dx^\nu = J(\sigma) dt \wedge dz.$$

This effective 5d action is not enough to study perturbations, though, since the truncation of fields that cancel in the specific background we are considering is not a consistent one [54].

2.3 Perturbative solution

The system (2.11) and (A.4)–(A.9) allows for a systematic expansion of all the functions in power series of Q_f , as defined in equation (2.4). In fact physically it is more relevant to expand in the parameter, ϵ_*

$$\epsilon_* \equiv Q_f e^{\Phi_*}, \quad (2.19)$$

which takes into account the running of the effective 't Hooft coupling (through the dilaton factor e^{Φ_*}). We consider the following first order expansion in ϵ_*

$$\begin{aligned} b &= 1 + \epsilon_* b_1 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon_*^2), & h &= \frac{R^4}{r^4} (1 + \epsilon_* h_1 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon_*^2)), \\ S &= r (1 + \epsilon_* S_1 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon_*^2)), & F &= r (1 + \epsilon_* F_1 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon_*^2)), \\ \Phi &= \Phi_* + \epsilon_* \Phi_1 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon_*^2), & H &= H_0 (1 + \epsilon_* H_1 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon_*^2)). \end{aligned} \quad (2.20)$$

where $R^4 \equiv Q_c/4$. We define the new radial coordinate r , in such a way that the zeroth order expansion in ϵ_* of h becomes R^4/r^4

$$e^{-4r_h^4 \sigma} \equiv 1 - \frac{r_h^4}{r^4}. \quad (2.21)$$

The extremal limit corresponds to sending the horizon radius r_h to zero. It is also convenient to define the following parameter

$$r_m^4 = e^{-\Phi_*} H_0^2 R^4, \quad (2.22)$$

The result is a coupled system of second order differential equations which can be decoupled by the transformations

$$\Delta_1 \equiv S_1 - F_1, \quad \Upsilon_1 \equiv 4F_1 + 16S_1 + 5h_1, \quad \Lambda_1 \equiv h_1 - b_1. \quad (2.23)$$

This allows us to write

$$\Psi_1'' + \frac{5r^4 - r_h^4}{r(r^4 - r_h^4)} \Psi_1' - \frac{4\zeta_\Psi r^2}{r^4 - r_h^4} \Psi_1 = \frac{A_\Psi r^4 + B_\Psi r_m^4}{(r^4 - r_h^4)\sqrt{r^4 + r_m^4}}, \quad (2.24)$$

$$\tilde{H}_1'' + \frac{r^4 + 3r_h^4}{r(r^4 - r_h^4)} \tilde{H}_1' - \frac{16r^2}{r^4 - r_h^4} \tilde{H}_1 = \frac{4r^4}{(r^4 - r_h^4)\sqrt{r^4 + r_m^4}}, \quad (2.25)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi &= \{b, \Lambda, \Upsilon, \Delta, \Phi\}, & \zeta_{\{b, \Lambda, \Upsilon, \Delta, \Phi\}} &= \{0, 8, 8, 3, 0\}, \\ A_{\{b, \Lambda, \Upsilon, \Delta, \Phi\}} &= \{0, 0, -16, -1, 4\}, & B_{\{b, \Lambda, \Upsilon, \Delta, \Phi\}} &= \{-4, 2, -6, -1, 2\}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.26)$$

The solution to these equations of motion is described in appendix B. Let us comment here on the boundary conditions we impose. In our solution there are four scales. We have already introduced the first three: r_h is the radius of the horizon and we impose the fields to be regular there; r_m is associated to the magnetic field, and r_* denotes the point at which we pierce the dilaton, this is, $\Phi(r) = \Phi_* + \phi(r)$ with $\phi(r_*) = 0$. With this scale we defined ϵ_* and its interpretation is given in terms of the scale at which the gauge coupling is defined, since [44]

$$\epsilon_* = \frac{1}{2\pi} g_s N_c e^{\Phi_*} \frac{N_f}{N_c}. \quad (2.27)$$

The fourth scale (which we will define as r_s) is the scale at which we paste the thermal solution presented in the appendix B to the $T = 0$ (supersymmetric) one [44], i.e. we impose the following conditions

$$b_1(r_s) = H_1(r_s) = \Lambda_1(r_s) = 0, \quad \Upsilon_1(r_s) = \frac{2}{9}, \quad \Delta_1(r_s) = \frac{1}{12}. \quad (2.28)$$

Notice that $b_T(r_s) \neq 1$, which is the supersymmetric solution. This is not a problem in Euclidean signature, since it can be solved by fixing the periodicity of the Euclidean time in the solution without temperature, and we will use this in the following to compare the energy and free energy of both solutions. In Lorentzian signature it introduces an error of order $(r_h/r_s)^4$, which is small provided $r_h \ll r_s$.

From now on we set $r_s \rightarrow \infty$, which corresponds to push the Landau pole to infinity, or more physically, to focus only in the IR properties of the theory. A UV completion of the system is not known even in the supersymmetric case. The following results can be understood as the leading terms in an r_h/r_s expansion. At the same time, we will take $r_* = r_h$, therefore describing the value of the dilaton relative to its value at the horizon, which implies that the 't Hooft coupling $\lambda_h = 4\pi g_s N_c e^{\Phi_h}$ is evaluated at the energy scale marked by the temperature.

For completeness, let us mention that from (2.11) and (2.25) we have at first order in ϵ_h

$$\partial_r \tilde{J} = \epsilon_h \left[\frac{r_m^2 r}{\sqrt{r^4 + r_m^4}} - \frac{1}{4} \partial_r \left(\left(1 - \frac{r_h^4}{r^4} \right) r \partial_r \tilde{H}_1 \right) \right]. \quad (2.29)$$

Qualitative behavior of the solution. Given the gargantuan form of the solution to our system at first order in ϵ_h , which can be found in appendix B, we give in this section a description of the different functions presented above. In this section some numeric work is presented, but in the rest of the paper we will restrict to analytic results.

The function b_1 is easy to describe by focusing in its radial derivative, given by

$$b_1' = -\frac{2r_m^4}{r(r^4 - r_h^4)} \log \left[\frac{r^2 + \sqrt{r^4 + r_m^4}}{r_h^2 + \sqrt{r_h^4 + r_m^4}} \right], \quad (2.30)$$

which for $r \geq r_h$ and real non-vanishing r_m is always negative (it is exactly vanishing if $r_m = 0$), and asymptotes $b_1' \rightarrow 0$ at large radius. As the boundary condition used in the integration is $b_1(r_s) = 0$, we conclude that this function is a monotonically decreasing function of r for finite r_m (exactly zero if $r_m = 0$) with the maximum value at the horizon.

Similarly, we can analyze the radial gradient of the dilaton correction

$$\phi_1' = \frac{1}{r} \frac{r^2 r_h^2 + \sqrt{(r^4 + r_m^4)(r_h^4 + r_m^4)}}{r^2 \sqrt{r_h^4 + r_m^4} + r_h^2 \sqrt{r^4 + r_m^4}}, \quad (2.31)$$

which is strictly positive for $r \geq r_h$ and real r_m . In this case the boundary condition used to integrate the solution is $\phi_1(r_*) = 0$, where r_* will be identified eventually with the horizon position as the IR scale of our effective solution. At large radius the dilaton diverges logarithmically, signaling the presence of a Landau pole, as discussed in [44].

For the other functions present in our solution –namely Λ_1 , Υ_1 , Δ_1 and H_1 – the gradient does not take a simple form that is worth writing, so we provide plots of the functions for several values of the parameters. For example, for Λ_1 one has that, numerically, the radial gradient is strictly non-negative (zero if $r_m = 0$), and $\Lambda_1(r_s) = 0$ from the boundary condition, in a similar situation to the function b_1 but with different sign for the gradient. In figure 1 we plot this quantity as a function of r/r_h for several values of $r_m/r_h = 0, 2, 5, 10$ and observe that it has non-negative gradient, and approaches $\Lambda_1 \rightarrow 0$ as $r \rightarrow r_s$ (with $r_s \rightarrow \infty$ in the figure).

As opposed to the previously presented cases, function Υ_1 presents some structure. To start with, the boundary condition at $r = r_s$ changes and is given by $\Upsilon(r_s) = 2/9$. However, when one works in the $r_s \rightarrow \infty$ limit this boundary condition is modified to $\Upsilon_1(\infty) = 1/2$, which is the value of the function when $r_m = 0$. For small values of the magnetic field scale (weighted by the horizon radius), $r_m/r_h \lesssim 1.23144$, the value of Υ_1 at the horizon is less than $1/2$, and after that specific value of the magnetic scale it is always larger than $1/2$. We plot this behavior in figure 2. Given the analyticity of the function there is a minimum which, numerically, we determined to be at $r_m \approx 0.961122r_h$. We have

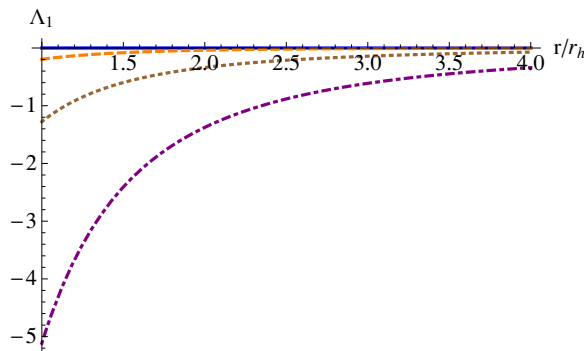


Figure 1. Λ_1 as a function of r/r_h for several values of $r_m/r_h = 0$ (blue straight line), 2 (orange dashed line), 5 (brown dotted line) and 10 (purple dotdashed line). To produce this plot the limit $r_s \rightarrow \infty$ has been taken analytically first.

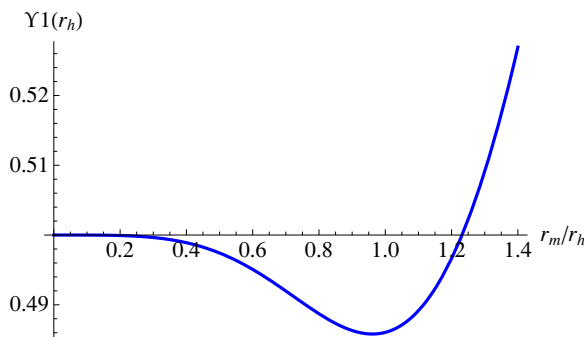


Figure 2. $\Upsilon_1(r_h)$ as a function of r_m/r_h . We observe a minimum at $r_m = 0.961122r_h$ with value $\Upsilon_1 = 0.485816$ and the curve crosses $\Upsilon_1 = \frac{1}{2}$ again at $r_m = 1.23144r_h$. To produce this plot the limit $r_s \rightarrow \infty$ has been taken analytically first.

not found any characteristic signature of the presence of this minimum of $\Upsilon_1(r_h)$ in the plasma.

In figure 3 we plot several examples of Υ_1 as a function of the radial variable in three graphs, classified according to the value of the function at the horizon. All the curves present a minimum (on the horizon when $r_m \leq 0.961122r_h$ and on the bulk otherwise) and asymptote the $r_m = 0$ value ($\Upsilon_1 = 1/2$) at large radius.

We have not given an analytic expression for Δ_1 because we couldn't find an easy way to write it, since it involves integrals of Legendre functions. However, from integrating the equation numerically we find that its behavior is very similar to that of b_1 or Λ_1 (with reversed sign), and we simply report here figure 4. We are not going to need to evaluate Δ_1 anywhere in this work. The reason is that this is the mode describing the squashing in the compact Sasaki-Einstein manifold, but from the point of view of the 5-dimensional system it is just a scalar that does not enter explicitly in the 5-dimensional metric (its influence would be felt just via the equations of motion, but recall we have defined Δ_1 precisely to decouple them). In this paper we will focus on the thermodynamics, stress-energy tensor

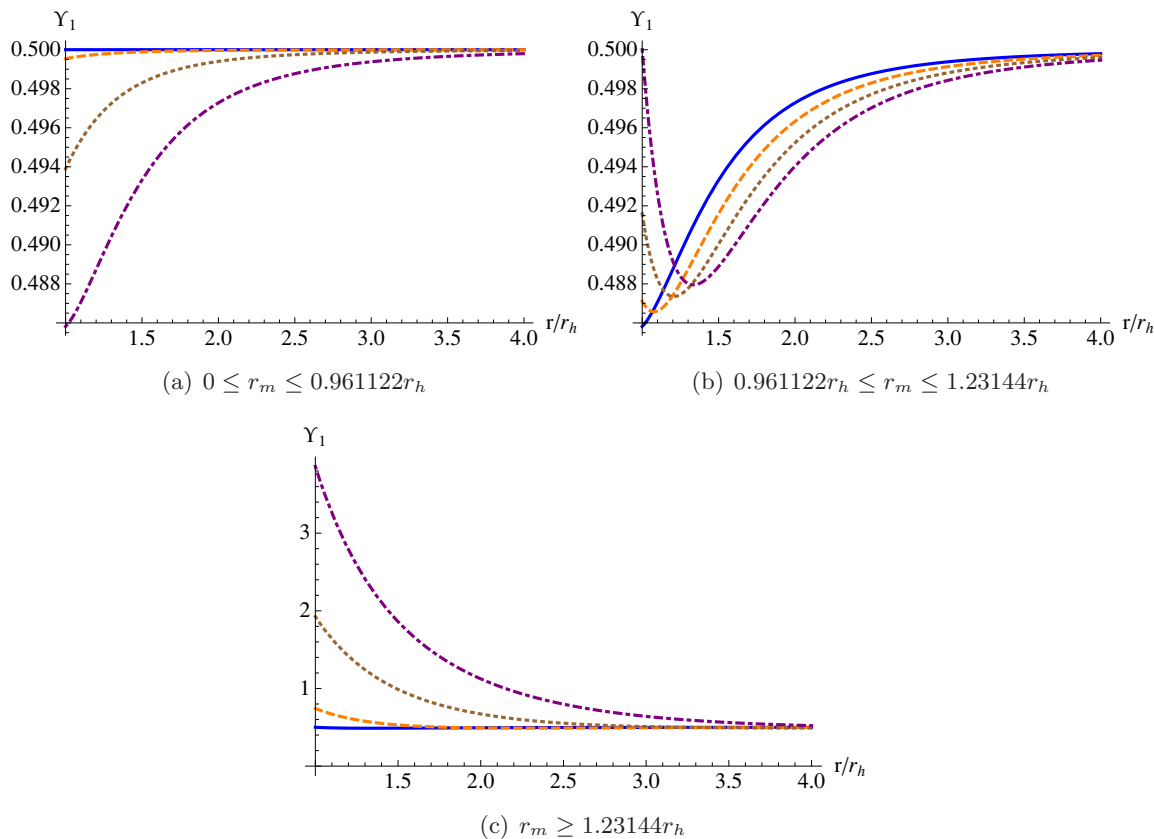


Figure 3. Υ_1 as a function of r/r_h for several values of r_m/r_h represented by a blue straight line, an orange dashed line, a brown dotted line, and a purple dot-dashed line, with values given respectively by (a) 0, 0.32, 0.64, 0.961122, (b) 0.961122, 1.05, 1.14, 1.23144 and (c) 1.23144, 2, 3.5, 5. To produce this plot the limit $r_s \rightarrow \infty$ has been taken analytically first.

and energy-loss of probes in the system, which do not depend explicitly in the matter content of our theory, just in the 5-dimensional metric.

Finally, we present the flavor correction to the NSNS 2-form H_1 . As usual we take the $r_s \rightarrow \infty$ limit analytically and we find, as it was the case for Υ_1 , that the boundary condition is not $H_1(\infty) = 0$ but $H_1(\infty) = -1/4$. One might be puzzled by the fact that the correction is not vanishing independently of the value of r_m , in concrete when $r_m = 0$, but recall that this correction is modulated by the flavorless value of the NSNS field strength $H \sim r_m^2(1 + \epsilon_h H_1 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon_h)^2)$, therefore at vanishing magnetic field we have $H = 0$. As the value of the magnetic field is increased the correction gets smaller and smaller as can be seen in figure 5.

2.4 Hierarchy of scales and regime of validity of the supergravity solution

The perturbative solution, that we present in full detail in the appendix B, needs to be supplemented with a hierarchy of energy scales (in terms of radial scales). Our analysis follows closely similar sections of [44, 49, 50], whose arguments we repeat here for completeness.

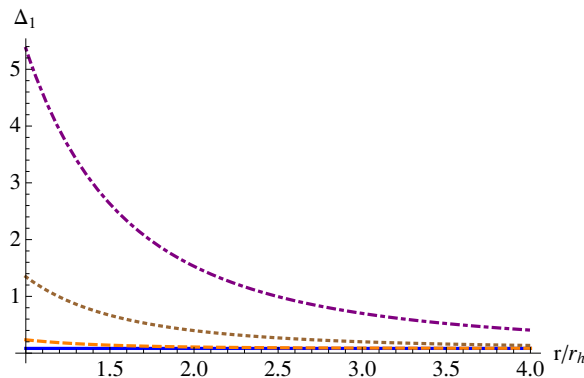


Figure 4. Δ_1 as a function of r/r_h for several values of $r_m/r_h = 0$ (blue straight line), 2 (orange dashed line), 5 (brown dotted line) and 10 (purple dot-dashed line). To produce this plot r_s has been taken to $r_s = 80r_h$ in the numerics. We have checked that this value for r_s gives indistinguishable results from those in figures 1 and 3.

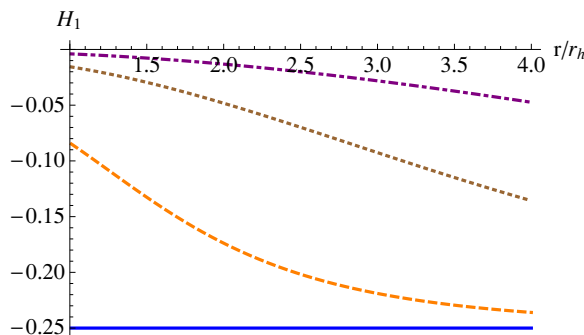


Figure 5. H_1 as a function of r/r_h for several values of $r_m/r_h = 0$ (blue straight line), 2 (orange dashed line), 5 (brown dotted line) and 10 (purple dot-dashed line). To produce this plot the limit $r_s \rightarrow \infty$ has been taken analytically first.

As usual, for the Taylor expansions in (2.20) to be valid in the region $r_h \leq r \leq r_s$ we need to separate the scale r_s from the scale introduced by the solution to $\phi_1(r)$, which diverges logarithmically at large values of the radius $r > r_s$, $r_s \ll r_h e^{1/\epsilon_h}$. The requirement that we discard corrections in r_h/r_s implies that our perturbative corrections are much larger than the terms we discard, therefore $\epsilon_h \gg r_h/r_s$. Joining these two conditions we have

$$e^{-1/\epsilon_h} \ll \frac{r_h}{r_s} \ll \epsilon_h, \tag{2.32}$$

which for large $r_s \gg r_h$ (implying that the UV completion this theory needs is far from the IR, where we study the physical properties of the system) implies that

$$0 < \epsilon_h \sim \lambda_h \frac{N_f}{N_c} \ll 1. \tag{2.33}$$

The scale r_m is associated with the magnetic field and can be arbitrarily close to $r_m = 0$. For large values of r_m (large magnetic fields/magnetization of the system, as we

will see in the next section), requiring that our solution remains in the perturbative level sets up a top value. As can be seen from the plots given previously, the maximum value of the functions appearing in the solution is at the horizon, and from the asymptotic values given in appendix B it is easy to see that, at large values of r_m , all the functions diverge at the horizon as r_m^2/r_h^2 . Therefore we must impose $1 \gg \epsilon_h r_m^2/r_h^2$, which gives the condition

$$|r_m| < \frac{r_h}{\epsilon_h^{1/2}} . \tag{2.34}$$

Similarly to [44], validity of the supergravity approximation requires to ignore closed string loops ($N_c \gg 1$) and α' corrections ($\lambda_h \gg 1$), where λ_h is the effective 't Hooft coupling at the energy scale set by the temperature. In addition, validity of the smearing approximation suggests a dense distribution of flavor D7-branes. In summary we have

$$\{N_c, N_f\} \gg 1, \quad \lambda_h \gg 1, \quad \epsilon_h \equiv \frac{\lambda_h N_f}{8\pi^2 N_c} \ll 1 . \tag{2.35}$$

Finally requiring that α' corrections, which scale as $\lambda_h^{-3/2}$, are sub-leading relative to flavor corrections, controlled by ϵ_h , requires

$$\lambda_h^{-3/2} \ll \epsilon_h . \tag{2.36}$$

3 Thermodynamics

In the previous section we presented in full detail the solution of an anisotropic black hole and now we will extract its thermodynamic properties. This will provide a non trivial validity check of the solution itself through the closure of the standard thermodynamical formulae. As in [44, 47], all quantities are obtained in power series of the perturbative expansion parameter and, therefore, the relevant thermodynamic relations are verified up to the relevant order.

3.1 Smarr formula

The temperature of the black hole is computed after imposing regularity of the Euclidean action. A simple computation using (B.16), (B.19) and (B.23) gives⁵

$$T = \frac{r_h}{\pi R^2} \left[1 + \frac{1}{4} \epsilon_h (3\Lambda_1 - \Upsilon_1 - b_1) \right]_{r=r_h} = \frac{r_h}{\pi R^2} \left[1 + \frac{1}{8} \epsilon_h \left(1 - 2 \sqrt{1 + \frac{r_m^4}{r_h^4}} \right) \right] . \tag{3.1}$$

The entropy density is proportional to A_8 , the volume at the horizon of the eight dimensional part of the space orthogonal to the \hat{t}, r plane (where \hat{t} is the Euclidean time), divided by the infinite constant volume of the 3d space directions V_3 . Another simple computation

⁵In this section all quantities have corrections coming from $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon_h^2)$ terms as well as $\frac{r_h^4}{r_s^4}$, where we are setting $r_s \rightarrow \infty$.

using (B.16), (B.19) and (B.23) gives

$$\begin{aligned}
 s &= \frac{2\pi}{\kappa_{10}^2} \frac{A_8}{V_3} = \frac{N_c^2 r_h^3}{2\pi R^6} \left[1 - \frac{\epsilon_h}{4} (3\Lambda_1 - \Upsilon_1 - b_1) \right]_{r=r_h} = \frac{N_c^2 r_h^3}{2\pi R^6} \left[1 - \frac{\epsilon_h}{8} \left(1 - 2\sqrt{1 + \frac{r_m^4}{r_h^4}} \right) \right] \\
 &= \frac{N_c^2 \pi^2 T^3}{2} \left[1 + \frac{\epsilon_h}{2} \left(1 - 2\sqrt{1 + \frac{r_m^4}{r_h^4}} \right) \right]. \tag{3.2}
 \end{aligned}$$

Note also combining (3.1) and (3.2) that

$$sT = \frac{2\pi^3}{\kappa_{10}^2} r_h^4. \tag{3.3}$$

In principle this result is perturbative in ϵ_h and valid to order ϵ_h^2 in the present case, however, it is not difficult to show that the statement is true, independently of the expansion parameter.

We define now the magnetic quantities. One natural identification for the magnetic field, B , is given by the value of the H field at the boundary, which from (2.22) is⁶

$$B = r_m^2 R^{-2}. \tag{3.4}$$

Looking at (2.11), we see that J' and H_0 are conjugate variables. The existence of the holographic duality implies that, if we associate H_0 with the magnetic field then J has to determine the magnetization density \mathcal{M} . This relation reads

$$\mathcal{M} \equiv \frac{1}{V_3} \int \frac{\delta S_{\text{eff}}}{\delta H_0} = -\frac{Q_c \pi^3}{2\kappa_{10}^2} \int J' dr = -\frac{N_c^2}{2\pi^2 R^4} \Delta J_{\text{reg}}, \tag{3.5}$$

and we will regularize the finite temperature result subtracting the zero temperature one. Using (2.29), to obtain the integral of J' , we arrive to the following expression for the magnetization

$$\mathcal{M} = \frac{N_c^2}{2\pi^2 R^4} \frac{Q_f B}{2} \log \left[\frac{r_h^2 + \sqrt{r_h^4 + r_m^4}}{r_m^2} \right]. \tag{3.6}$$

The next step in the determination of the Smarr formula is the calculation of the internal energy. Starting from the ADM energy we have

$$E_{ADM} = -\frac{1}{\kappa_{10}^2} \sqrt{-g_{tt}} \int d^8 x \sqrt{\det g_8} (K_T - K_0). \tag{3.7}$$

The eight-dimensional integral is taken over a constant time, constant radius hypersurface. The symbols K_T and K_0 are the extrinsic curvatures of the eight-dimensional subspace within the nine-dimensional (constant time) space, at finite and zero temperature, respectively. Using the explicit solution in appendix A we have

$$\varepsilon_{ADM} = \frac{E_{ADM}}{V_3} = \frac{3 N_c^2 r_h^4}{8 \pi^2 R^8} \left[1 + \epsilon_h \frac{r_m^4}{3 r_h^4} \log \left[\frac{r_m^2}{r_h^2 + \sqrt{r_h^4 + r_m^4}} \right] \right]. \tag{3.8}$$

⁶Notice that we cancel a factor of e^{Φ_h} by passing between the string and Einstein frames.

Another way to write (3.8) is, at order $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon_h^2)$,

$$\epsilon_{ADM} = \frac{3}{4} sT - \frac{1}{2} B\mathcal{M}, \tag{3.9}$$

which implies that we must identify the ADM mass with the magnetic enthalpy of the system, $\mathcal{H} = \epsilon_{ADM}$. The internal energy, \mathcal{U} , is given in terms of the enthalpy by the following expression

$$\mathcal{U} = \mathcal{H} + B\mathcal{M} = \frac{3}{4} sT + \frac{1}{2} B\mathcal{M}. \tag{3.10}$$

3.2 Thermodynamic potentials

The relations that must be satisfied by the thermodynamic potentials are the following

$$\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{U} - sT, \quad \mathcal{G} = \mathcal{F} - B\mathcal{M}, \tag{3.11}$$

where \mathcal{F} is the Helmholtz free energy (in the ensemble where the magnetization is kept fixed) and \mathcal{G} is the Gibbs free energy (in the ensemble where the magnetic field is kept fixed), which is the interesting ensemble in our case. These thermodynamic potentials are related by a Legendre transformation

$$\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{F} - \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \mathcal{M}} \mathcal{M}. \tag{3.12}$$

In a holographic set-up the thermodynamic potentials are related to the on-shell Euclidean action (times the temperature to cancel the periodicity of the Euclidean time direction). Given our previous discussion on the identification of the magnetization with the field J (see (3.5)), which leads to the following relation

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{M}}{\partial J} = \frac{\mathcal{M}}{J}, \tag{3.13}$$

we can associate the Legendre transformation defining the Gibbs free energy with the Legendre transformation defining the action \tilde{S} in (2.12). By denoting the on-shell action⁷ as \tilde{I} we have⁸

$$\mathcal{G} = \frac{\tilde{I}}{\beta} = -\frac{1}{8} N_c^2 \pi^2 T^4 \left[1 + \epsilon_h \left(-\frac{1}{2} + \sqrt{1 + \frac{r_m^4}{r_h^4}} + \frac{r_m^4}{r_h^4} \log \left[\frac{r_h^2 + \sqrt{r_h^4 + r_m^4}}{r_m^2} \right] \right) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon_h^2) \right]. \tag{3.14}$$

The regularization is performed by subtracting the $T = 0$ background and the action is supplemented with a Gibbons-Hawking term. In [50, 51] the regularization of the free energy in the probe approximation was performed by the addition of counterterms. We consider the fact that we recover their results in the appropriate limit as a sign that the

⁷Notice that to obtain \tilde{S}_{eff} we have integrated by parts to get rid of second order differentials, introducing some boundary terms. These, in principle, are taken care of by the Gibbons-Hawking term and will not contribute to the final expression. We have checked that this is the case by calculating the on-shell action with and without these extra boundary terms.

⁸This calculation is detailed in appendix C.

background subtraction method gives the correct answer. In particular, we do not need to worry about the presence of logarithmic divergences, cancelled by counterterms with explicit cutoff dependence, since these are temperature independent and the background subtraction cancels them completely. It is not difficult to check that, when subtracting the $T = 0$ background, the contribution of that term vanishes up to order $1/r_*^4$. Now, it is not difficult to check that indeed

$$\mathcal{G} = -\frac{1}{4} s T - \frac{1}{2} B \mathcal{M} . \tag{3.15}$$

Applying the standard thermodynamic relations

$$s = - \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{G}}{\partial T} \right)_B , \quad \mathcal{M} = - \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{G}}{\partial B} \right)_T , \tag{3.16}$$

we confirm the previously obtained results in (3.2) and (3.6) respectively. The calculation of the Helmholtz free energy can be done in a similar fashion, but using the original action (2.10). This can be seen as the Legendre transformation of \tilde{S}_{eff} , which eliminates H_0 and adds a term $+ B \mathcal{M}$, after the proper renormalization. In this way we have

$$\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{G} + B \mathcal{M} = \mathcal{U} - s T \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathcal{F} = -\frac{1}{4} s T + \frac{1}{2} B \mathcal{M} . \tag{3.17}$$

Once again we can check the thermodynamic relations

$$s = - \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial T} \right)_{\mathcal{M}} , \quad B = \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \mathcal{M}} \right)_T , \tag{3.18}$$

where, to work at fixed magnetization, we have to specify how r_m evolves with the temperature. For that we look at equation (3.6), from where the following evolution follows

$$\partial_T r_m = \frac{\pi R^2 r_h r_m}{r_h^2 - \sqrt{r_h^4 + r_m^4} \log \left[\frac{r_h^2 + \sqrt{r_m^4 + r_h^4}}{r_m^2} \right]} . \tag{3.19}$$

3.3 Speed of sound

Finally we analyze the speed of sound in the plasma with a magnetic field. Due to the anisotropy of the gravitational solution we will find that there are two normal directions in which the pressure waves propagate at different speeds. For a perturbation propagating in the direction of the magnetic field we have

$$c_{s,\parallel}^2 = \frac{\partial P_{\parallel}}{\partial \mathcal{U}} = \frac{-(\partial \mathcal{G} / \partial T)_B}{(\partial \mathcal{U} / \partial T)_B} = \frac{s}{C_{V,B}} , \tag{3.20}$$

where $C_{V,B}$ is the heat capacity at fixed magnetic field. To calculate it we have to derive the internal energy with respect to the temperature, but we must take into account how the parameters ϵ_h and r_m run with the energy scale. The case of the parameter ϵ_h is easy to understand from the profile for the dilaton and it follows that $\partial_T \epsilon_h \sim \epsilon_h^2$, [44]. Since we work at first order in ϵ_h , the running of the coupling constant⁹ — via the presence of factors

⁹Recall that $\epsilon_h \sim \lambda_h N_f / N_c$.

of R in the definitions of the physical magnetic field (3.4) and the magnetization (3.6) — does not affect our results. At fixed magnetic field, since $B \sim r_m^2$ we observe that $\partial_T r_m = 0$, therefore

$$C_{V,B} = \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{U}}{\partial T} \right)_B = \frac{3N_c^2 r_h^3}{2\pi R^6} \left[1 - \frac{\epsilon_h}{8} \left(1 - \left(2 + \frac{10 r_m^4}{3 r_h^4} \right) \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{r_m^4}{r_h^4}}} \right) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon_h^2) \right]. \quad (3.21)$$

With this result at hand we can find readily the speed of sound in the direction of the magnetic field as

$$c_{s,\parallel}^2 = \frac{s}{C_{V,B}} = \frac{1}{3} \left[1 - \frac{\epsilon_h r_m^4}{6 r_h^4} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{r_m^4}{r_h^4}}} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon_h^2) \right], \quad (3.22)$$

which gives a lower speed of sound than the conformal result. For the speed of sound in the direction orthogonal to the magnetic field we obtain, using the chain rule

$$c_{s,\perp}^2 = \frac{\partial P_\perp}{\partial \mathcal{U}} = \frac{-(\partial \mathcal{F}/\partial T)_B}{(\partial \mathcal{U}/\partial T)_B} = -\frac{(\frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial T})_{\mathcal{M}} + (\frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \mathcal{M}})_T (\frac{\partial \mathcal{M}}{\partial T})_B}{(\partial \mathcal{U}/\partial T)_B} = \frac{s}{C_{V,B}} - \frac{B}{C_{V,B}} \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{M}}{\partial T} \right)_B, \quad (3.23)$$

which leads to

$$c_{s,\perp}^2 = \frac{1}{3} \left[1 - \frac{7 \epsilon_h r_m^4}{6 r_h^4} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \frac{r_m^4}{r_h^4}}} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon_h^2) \right]. \quad (3.24)$$

In particular we see that the presence of a magnetic field in our setup breaks conformal invariance at first order in $\lambda_h \frac{N_f}{N_c}$ even when the fundamental degrees of freedom we included are massless (in the absence of magnetic field the breaking of conformal invariance happens at order ϵ_h^2 , see [44–47, 52]). This is one difference between the setup presented in this work and the results in the quenched approximation $\lambda_h N_f/N_c \rightarrow 0$, [51]. Although for thermodynamic quantities such as the entropy, the magnetization and the Gibbs free energy we obtain agreement with the results of that paper, in our setup the anisotropy sourced by the magnetic field is included, and this allows us to calculate the different speeds of sound, depending on the direction of the pressure wave, and obtain conformality-breaking results.

For completeness we calculate here the heat capacity at constant magnetization, where we need to make use of equation (3.19) to work at fixed magnetization. The result is

$$C_{V,\mathcal{M}} = \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{U}}{\partial T} \right)_{\mathcal{M}} = \frac{3N_c^2 r_h^3}{2\pi R^6} \left[1 + \frac{\epsilon_h}{24} C_{V,\mathcal{M}}^{\text{cor}} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon_h^2) \right], \quad (3.25)$$

with

$$C_{V,\mathcal{M}}^{\text{cor}} = \frac{1}{r_h^4 \sqrt{1 + \frac{r_m^4}{r_h^4}} \left(r_h^2 - \sqrt{r_h^4 + r_m^4} \log \left[\frac{r_h^2 + \sqrt{r_m^4 + r_h^4}}{r_m^2} \right] \right)} \left[6r_h^2 (r_h^4 + 3r_m^4) - 3r_h^4 \sqrt{r_h^4 + r_m^4} \right. \\ \left. + \left(3r_h^2 (r_h^4 + r_m^4) - 2 (3r_h^4 + r_m^4) \sqrt{r_h^4 + r_m^4} \right) \log \left[\frac{r_h^2 + \sqrt{r_m^4 + r_h^4}}{r_m^2} \right] \right]. \quad (3.26)$$

4 Stress-energy tensor with a magnetic field

In this section we will calculate holographically the stress-energy (SE) tensor of the boundary field theory. As customary in the AdS/CFT context, we evaluate the Brown-York tensor at a cutoff r_Λ from the 5d action (2.14)

$$\tau^{ij} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{-\gamma}} \frac{\delta S_{5d}}{\delta \gamma_{ij}} \Big|_{r_\Lambda} = \frac{1}{\kappa_5^2} (K^{ij} - K \gamma^{ij})_{r_\Lambda}, \quad (4.1)$$

where γ is the induced metric at the $r = r_\Lambda$ surface, where the indices i, j run, and K^{ij} is the extrinsic curvature. The Brown-York tensor diverges when the cutoff is taken to the boundary. To cancel this divergence we employ the same background subtraction as in the previous section, which allows us to read the temperature and magnetic field contribution to the SE tensor.

4.1 Expectations

Before presenting the actual calculation we will state what we *expect* the diagonal components of the SE tensor to be. The presence of the magnetic field sources an anisotropy in the medium, and therefore we will have a vev for the SE tensor of the field theory given by

$$\langle T^i_j \rangle = \text{diag} (-\mathcal{E}_{ADM}, P_\perp, P_\perp, P_\parallel), \quad (4.2)$$

where \mathcal{E}_{ADM} is the enthalpy, as was shown in the previous section, P_\perp the pressure in the directions transverse to the magnetic field, and P_\parallel the pressure along the direction of the magnetic field. When no magnetic field is present the two pressures coincide and are related to the Gibbs free energy¹⁰ $P_\perp = P_\parallel = -\mathcal{G}$.

The question that is immediately risen is whether in our case $P_\perp = -\mathcal{G}$ or $P_\parallel = -\mathcal{G}$ — if any —, and if this is true what is the expression for the other pressure. Notice that the difference $\Delta_P \equiv P_\parallel - P_\perp$ is a measure of the anisotropy of the medium, and therefore we expect it to be proportional to the magnetization (times the magnetic field) $\Delta_P \sim BM$.

¹⁰In the absence of a magnetic field the Gibbs and Helmholtz free energies presented in (3.14) and (3.17) coincide, but the presence of non-trivial charge density and chemical potential would make a difference between the two. Actually, in a traditional nomenclature the Gibbs free energy should correspond to the thermodynamic potential at fixed chemical potential and zero magnetic field; we use the same name here by analogy.

The answer to this question is given by

$$P_{\parallel} = -\mathcal{G}, \quad P_{\perp} = -\mathcal{F}. \tag{4.3}$$

To understand why this is the case, we will follow a thermodynamic argument that can be found in a similar context in appendix C of [55]. In that paper the thermal $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM plasma has an anisotropy sourced by a specific distribution of D7 branes along the horizon of the black brane, translated in a value for the axion $\chi = az$, with a a constant. In the present case the D7 branes are extended along the radial direction of AdS, reaching the boundary and describing fundamental matter in the plasma, and the anisotropy appears by the presence of a magnetization of the fundamental.

The key of the argument is to write the internal energy of the plasma as an *extensive* quantity¹¹ $\mathcal{U} = \mathcal{U}(S, L_x, L_y, L_z, \mathcal{M})$, with S the extensive entropy, $L_{x,y,z}$ the length of the sides of a box in which we have inserted our plasma and \mathcal{M} the magnetization of the system. The energy and the entropy scale with the total volume of the box $V_3 = L_x L_y L_z = \int d^3x$, but the magnetization does not. This may seem strange at first sight, since one would expect the magnetic field to be an intrinsic quantity and the magnetization to be a density. One way to see the scaling is to realize that the magnetization is a vector in the z direction whereas the magnetic field is given by a 2-form $B dx \wedge dy$. Therefore, to keep the magnetic field constant when we scale L_x or L_y , we should scale B accordingly. In the same way, the magnetization scales with L_z . This suggests that it is more appropriate to talk about magnetic flux along the xy plane, B , and magnetization linear density along the z direction. These are the quantities that matter when considering a finite box is the presence of an external magnetic field.

Therefore, comparing with the calculation in [55], all we need to do is to repeat the arguments in their appendix C with the identification $a \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ and $\Phi \rightarrow B$ –which we will not write explicitly here since it is nicely discussed in the referred paper–, and we are led to the result (4.3). From here, it is also straightforward to see that $\Delta_P = BM$.

The identities (4.3) can also be written as Gibbs-Duhem equations

$$\mathcal{U} + P_{\parallel} = sT + BM, \quad \mathcal{U} + P_{\perp} = sT. \tag{4.4}$$

4.2 Holographic calculation

We proceed now to calculate the components of the vev of the SE tensor in the field theory. This is related to the Brown-York tensor (4.1) by

$$\langle T^i_j \rangle = \sqrt{-\gamma} \tau^i_{j, \text{reg}} \Big|_{r_{\Lambda} \rightarrow \infty}, \tag{4.5}$$

where we have assumed that the expression (4.1) has been regularized before taking the $r_{\Lambda} \rightarrow \infty$ limit. Notice that strictly speaking this is a density since we are not integrating

¹¹Note that in the rest of the paper thermodynamic quantities are intensive!

over the space. From the definition (4.1) we have

$$\langle T^t_t \rangle = \frac{1}{2\kappa_5^2} r^5 \left(1 - \frac{r_h^4}{r^4} \right) \partial_r \log \left(e^{-10f} h^{-3/2} b^2 \right), \quad (4.6)$$

$$\langle T^x_x \rangle = \langle T^y_y \rangle = \frac{1}{2\kappa_5^2} r^5 \left(1 - \frac{r_h^4}{r^4} \right) \partial_r \log \left(e^{-10f} h^{-3/2} b^2 b_T^2 \right), \quad (4.7)$$

$$\langle T^z_z \rangle = \frac{1}{2\kappa_5^2} r^5 \left(1 - \frac{r_h^4}{r^4} \right) \partial_r \log \left(e^{-10f} h^{-3/2} b^2 b_T^2 \right). \quad (4.8)$$

Expressions (4.6)–(4.8) can be expanded in powers of ϵ_h using the solution described in appendix B. With this we can write $\langle \tau^i_j \rangle = \langle \tau^i_j \rangle_0 + \epsilon_h \langle \tau^i_j \rangle_1 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon_h^2)$.

At zeroth order in ϵ_h we have $b = 1$, since this function describes the anisotropy between the directions perpendicular to the magnetic field and the direction along the magnetic field, which is an order ϵ_h effect caused by the presence of fundamental matter. Therefore, at zeroth order in ϵ_h one obtains that $\langle T^x_x \rangle = \langle T^y_y \rangle = \langle T^z_z \rangle$ and the Brown-York tensor is isotropic. Actually, at zeroth order the solution to the type IIB action is nothing but $AdS_5 \times S^5$ by construction, and we know already what the Brown-York tensor is going to be. The explicit calculation goes as

$$(\sqrt{-\gamma} \tau^i_j)_{0,\text{div}} = \frac{1}{\kappa_5^2} (3r_\Lambda^4 - r_h^4) \text{diag}(-3, 1, 1, 1), \quad (4.9)$$

where the subindex *div* signs that the expression is divergent in the $r_\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$ limit and must be regularized. Once again, the regularization is achieved by background subtraction

$$\langle T^i_j \rangle_0 = \lim_{r_\Lambda \rightarrow \infty} \left((\sqrt{-\gamma} \tau^i_j)_{0,\text{div}} - \sqrt{1 - \frac{r_h^4}{r_\Lambda^4}} \lim_{r_h \rightarrow 0, B \rightarrow 0} (\sqrt{-\gamma} \tau^i_j)_{0,\text{div}} \right), \quad (4.10)$$

where the factor in the square root matches the euclidean geometries at the cutoff. A straightforward calculation gives

$$\langle T^i_j \rangle_0 = \frac{V_{SE}}{2\kappa_{10}^2} r_h^4 \text{diag}(-3, 1, 1, 1), \quad (4.11)$$

after use of $\kappa_5^2 = \kappa_{10}^2/V_{SE}$. Considering now the observation made in (3.3), we can rewrite this expression as

$$\langle T^i_j \rangle_0 = \frac{sT}{4} \text{diag}(-3, 1, 1, 1). \quad (4.12)$$

This, of course, is just the AdS_5 result, which gives an isotropic contribution. Notice that even when the entropy density and the temperature are sensitive to the magnetization of the plasma, their product cancels out factors coming from \mathcal{M} to give the contribution to the SE tensor given above.

We consider now the contribution due to the presence of fundamental matter at first order in ϵ_h , $\langle T^i_j \rangle_1$. This term is given prior to regularization by

$$(\sqrt{-\gamma} \tau^i_j)_{1,\text{div}} = \frac{r_\Lambda (r_\Lambda^4 - r_h^4)}{4\kappa_5^2} \left[(b'_1 - 3\Lambda'_1 + \Upsilon'_1) \mathbb{I}_{4 \times 4} - 2b'_1 \text{diag}(0, 1, 1, 0) \right]. \quad (4.13)$$

Once regularized we read the vev of the field theory SE tensor. In this case the $\langle T^t_t \rangle$ component must coincide with the ADM mass calculation (see appendix D) given in the previous section. We have checked this explicitly by regularizing (4.13) and evaluating the expression one gets in terms of b_1 , Λ_1 and Υ_1 . This fact helps us to find the expressions for the SE tensor with the aim of the following two properties

$$(\sqrt{-\gamma} \tau^t_t)_{1,\text{div}} = (\sqrt{-\gamma} \tau^z_z)_{1,\text{div}} , \tag{4.14}$$

$$(\sqrt{-\gamma} \tau^x_x)_{1,\text{div}} = (\sqrt{-\gamma} \tau^y_y)_{1,\text{div}} = (\sqrt{-\gamma} \tau^z_z)_{1,\text{div}} - \frac{r_\Lambda(r_\Lambda^4 - r_h^4)}{2\kappa_5^2} b'_1 . \tag{4.15}$$

Expression (4.14) tells us that the contribution at first order in ϵ_h for $\langle T^t_t \rangle$ and $\langle T^z_z \rangle$ coincide, and since we know that the time component is given by the ADM energy, which we already calculated, we get

$$\langle T^t_t \rangle = -\varepsilon_{ADM} = -\frac{3}{4}sT + \frac{1}{2}B\mathcal{M} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \langle T^z_z \rangle = \frac{1}{4}sT + \frac{1}{2}B\mathcal{M} = -\mathcal{G} , \tag{4.16}$$

as announced.

To evaluate the pressure in the transverse directions $P_\perp = \langle T^x_x \rangle$ we can make use of the relation (4.15). There are two equivalent ways to obtain the answer. The first and more obvious one is to evaluate the b'_1 contribution in the r.h.s. of (4.15) and regularize. This can be seen to lead to

$$\langle T^x_x \rangle = \langle T^z_z \rangle - B\mathcal{M} = -\mathcal{F} , \tag{4.17}$$

which is the expected result. Unfortunately, the evaluation makes use of the analytic –but somehow complicated– form of $b_1(r)$, and intermediate steps to arrive to this result imply writing down long, non-illuminating expressions. A second strategy would be to notice that the contributions to the regularized SE tensor from Λ_1 and Υ_1 vanish. This implies that the correction at order ϵ_h to $\langle T^x_x \rangle$ is opposite in sign to the correction to $\langle T^z_z \rangle$, giving once again $\langle T^x_x \rangle = \frac{1}{4}sT - \frac{1}{2}B\mathcal{M} = -\mathcal{F}$. However, the explicit solution for Λ_1 and Υ_1 is more complicated than the one for b_1 , and intermediate expressions are again cumbersome equations which would lengthen this section without adding anything relevant.

Of course, from the former arguments it follows that the anisotropic measure is given by $\Delta_P = B\mathcal{M}$, in agreement with the thermodynamic argument of the previous subsection.

5 Energy loss in the magnetically anisotropic plasma

In this section we will focus on calculating the energy loss of the partons as they propagate in an anisotropic plasma.

An estimation of this influence is coming through the calculation of the jet quenching parameter \hat{q} . In [56], using the eikonal approximation in the high energy limit, they presented a non-perturbative prescription for calculating \hat{q} as the coefficient of L^2 in an almost light-like Wilson loop with dimensions $L^- \gg L$. Following this prescription we will calculate \hat{q} for our anisotropic backreacted background.

Another estimate of the energy loss of a parton passing through a medium may come through the drag force calculation. This computation can be implemented in a holographic framework through a macroscopic string moving with constant velocity v . That string is attached to a probe flavor brane and dragged by a constant force f which keeps the velocity fixed. The drag coefficient μ , measuring the energy loss, is calculated from the equation of motion

$$f = \mu p, \tag{5.1}$$

where p is the parton momentum. Following the prescription of [5, 6], we will calculate μ for our anisotropic backreacted background.

5.1 Drag force

In this section we perform the calculation of a second observable describing energy loss in the Quark-Gluon plasma by computing the drag force experienced by an infinitely massive quark propagating at constant velocity through an anisotropic plasma in constant magnetic field. In an anisotropic medium, the drag coefficient is not just a number but a matrix. This matrix is diagonal, $\mu = \text{diag}(\mu_x, \mu_y, \mu_z)$ but with $\mu_x = \mu_y \neq \mu_z$, which means that the force and the momentum (or the velocity) of the quark will not be aligned in general.

The external magnetic field plays a double role in this scenario. On one side it makes the plasma anisotropic, on the other side it stimulates synchrotron radiation of gluons which is an additional factor contributing to the energy loss of the moving quark. In our analysis we stabilize the classical trajectory of the quark by introducing an additional electric field perpendicular to the magnetic field, compensating the Lorentz force. In addition we add a drag electric force compensating the viscous force of the plasma. The only energy loss is due to the negative work exerted by the viscous force.

We follow closely [57], where the isotropic analysis of [5, 6] has been generalized to the case of anisotropic plasma. Another relevant papers are ref. [58], where heavy quark in external magnetic field has been studied, and ref. [59] where the study of the radiation of a quark in an anisotropic plasma is performed.

On the gravity side the quark is described by a string propagating in the background (5.23) while the string action is given by

$$S = -\frac{1}{2\pi\alpha'} \int d^2\sigma \sqrt{-g} + \frac{1}{2\pi\alpha'} \int P[B] = \int d^2\sigma \mathcal{L}, \tag{5.2}$$

where g is the induced worldsheet metric and $P[B]$ is the pullback of the Kalb-Rammond B -field.

Physically, the electric forces needed to stabilize the trajectory are introduced by attaching one end of the string to a D7-brane and turning on a constant gauge field $F_{MN} = \partial_{[M}A_{N]}$ on the brane [57]. This results to the following boundary term

$$S_{\text{bdry}} = \int_{\partial\Sigma} d\tau A_N \partial_\tau X^N = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\partial\Sigma} d\tau F_{MN} X^M \partial_\tau X^N. \tag{5.3}$$

Next we define

$$\Pi_M = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial_\sigma X^M)}. \tag{5.4}$$

From the variation of the boundary action one has

$$\Pi_M|_{\partial\Sigma} + (2\pi\alpha')F_{MN}\partial_\tau X^N = 0 . \quad (5.5)$$

Equation (5.5) is the equation for the balance of the forces acting on the moving quark. One can expect that the contribution to Π_M from the Nambu-Goto term of the action corresponds to the viscous force of the plasma, while the contribution from the anti-symmetric part corresponds to the Lorentz force, this is confirmed by our analysis.

We choose an ansatz in which the string does not move along the compact directions, while due to the rotational symmetry in the xy -plane, we can choose $y = 0$. However in order for this ansatz to be consistent we need to compensate the Lorentz force along the y direction. To clarify this we keep a general ansatz $y = y(\tau, \sigma)$ for a while. We fix the reparameterization invariance by identifying $(t, r) = (\tau, \sigma)$ and consider a string profile of the form

$$x = [ut + x(r)] \sin \varphi, \quad z = [ut + z(r)] \cos \varphi, \quad y = y(\tau, \sigma), \quad (5.6)$$

corresponding to a quark moving with velocity u in the xz -plane at an angle φ with the z -axis and with so far undetermined profile along y (eventually we will fix $y \equiv 0$). Since the lagrangian does not depend explicitly on x , y and z we have:

$$\Pi_x = -\frac{G_{11}}{\mathcal{L}} \left[G_{tt} x' + u^2 \cos^2 \varphi G_{33} (x' - z') + G_{22} \dot{y} (\dot{y} x' - u \dot{y}') \right] \sin \varphi - B_{12} \dot{y}, \quad (5.7)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_y = & -\frac{G_{22}}{\mathcal{L}} \left[G_{tt} y' + u \sin^2 \varphi G_{11} (u y' - x' \dot{y}) + u \cos^2 \varphi G_{33} (u y' - z' \dot{y}) \right] \\ & + u \sin \varphi B_{12} \end{aligned} \quad (5.8)$$

$$\Pi_z = -\frac{1}{\mathcal{L}} G_{33} \left[G_{tt} z' - u^2 \sin^2 \varphi G_{11} (x' - z') + G_{22} \dot{y} (\dot{y} z' - u \dot{y}') \right] \cos \varphi, \quad (5.9)$$

where $'$ denotes differentiation with respect to r . As one can see from equation (5.8), even if we set $y \equiv 0$, Π_y has a non-vanishing contribution $u \sin \varphi B_{12}$. For the y component of equation (5.5) we obtain

$$u \sin \varphi H_0 - (2\pi\alpha') F_{02} = 0, \quad (5.10)$$

where we have used that F_{MN} has only electric components and that $B_{12}|_{\partial\Sigma} = H_0$. It is clear that equation (5.10) represents the balance between the Lorentz force $u \sin \varphi H_0$ acting on the quark and the electric field along the y component, F_{02} , needed to cancel the Lorentz force. Therefore we fix $F_{02} = u \sin \varphi H_0 / (2\pi\alpha')$ which enables us to set $y \equiv 0$. The expressions for Π_x and Π_y simplify to:

$$\Pi_x = -\frac{1}{\mathcal{L}} G_{11} \left[G_{tt} x' + u^2 \cos^2 \varphi G_{33} (x' - z') \right] \sin \varphi, \quad (5.11)$$

$$\Pi_z = -\frac{1}{\mathcal{L}} G_{33} \left[G_{tt} z' - u^2 \sin^2 \varphi G_{11} (x' - z') \right] \cos \varphi, \quad (5.12)$$

Inverting (5.11) and (5.12) we have

$$(x')^2 = \frac{G_{33} G_{rr}}{G_{11} G_{tt}} \frac{u^2 N_x^2}{D - N_x N_z}, \quad (z')^2 = \frac{G_{11} G_{rr}}{G_{33} G_{tt}} \frac{u^2 N_z^2}{D - N_x N_z}, \quad (5.13)$$

with

$$N_x = \Pi_x G_{tt} \cot \varphi + u^2 G_{11} \cos \varphi (\Pi_z \cos \varphi + \Pi_x \sin \varphi), \quad (5.14)$$

$$N_z = \Pi_z G_{tt} + u^2 G_{33} \cos \varphi (\Pi_z \cos \varphi + \Pi_x \sin \varphi), \quad (5.15)$$

and

$$D = \cot \varphi G_{tt} D_1 D_2 \quad (5.16)$$

$$D_1 = \Pi_x \Pi_z - \frac{1}{2} u^2 G_{11} G_{33} \sin 2\varphi \quad \text{and} \quad D_2 = G_{tt} + u^2 (G_{33} \cos^2 \varphi + G_{11} \sin^2 \varphi).$$

The critical value of r is determined from the equations $N_x = N_z = 0$ and $D = N_x N_z = 0$ and it is given by

$$r_c = \frac{r_h}{(1-u^2)^{1/4}} \left[1 + \epsilon_h \frac{r_m^4}{r_h^4} \frac{u^2 \cos^2 \varphi}{1-u^2} \left[\pi^2 + \log^2(1-u^2) + \text{Li}_2 \left(\frac{u^2}{u^2-1} \right) \right] \right]. \quad (5.17)$$

For this critical value we have $\Pi_x = u G_{11} \sin \varphi$ and $\Pi_z = u G_{33} \cos \varphi$. With all these constraints the denominator in (5.13) is always real and positive except at r_c , where it vanishes. The numerators, at the critical point, also vanish and the functions x', z' are smooth and negative for $r_h < r < r_s \rightarrow \infty$. The force that must be exerted on the quark in order to maintain its stationary motion (see [57] for a detailed explanation) is

$$\vec{F} = \frac{1}{2\pi\alpha'} (\Pi_x, \Pi_z), \quad (5.18)$$

in terms of the quark's velocity $\vec{u} = u(\sin \varphi, \cos \varphi)$. For the specific case of anisotropic plasma under study we have, in the small magnetic field limit

$$F_{\{x,z\}} = \frac{\pi}{2} \sqrt{\lambda_h} T^2 \frac{u}{\sqrt{1-u^2}} \left[1 + \frac{1}{8} \epsilon_h [2 - \log(1-u^2) + f_{\{x,z\}}] \right], \quad (5.19)$$

with

$$f_x = \frac{1}{12} s_\varphi \frac{r_m^4}{r_h^4} \left[36 - 12 \log(1-u^2) - 6 \left(1 + \frac{2}{1-u^2} - \frac{2c_\varphi^2 u^2}{1-u^2} \right) \times \right. \\ \left. \times \left[\frac{\pi^2}{6} + \frac{1}{2} \log^2(1-u^2) + \text{Li}_2 \left(\frac{u^2}{u^2-1} \right) \right] \right], \quad (5.20)$$

$$f_z = \frac{1}{12} c_\varphi \frac{r_m^4}{r_h^4} \left[36 - 12 \log(1-u^2) + 6 \left(1 - \frac{2s_\varphi^2 u^2}{1-u^2} \right) \times \right. \\ \left. \times \left[\frac{\pi^2}{6} + \frac{1}{2} \log^2(1-u^2) + \text{Li}_2 \left(\frac{u^2}{u^2-1} \right) \right] \right]. \quad (5.21)$$

These expressions show the dependence of the magnitude of the force on the magnetic field, and also how the presence of the anisotropy affects the orientation of the field. This effect

is *not* due to a Lorentz force, since it is compensated in equation (5.10). The directions in which the quark is moving and the force is pushing are related by

$$\arg \vec{F} = \varphi + \epsilon_h \frac{b_1(r_c)}{2} \sin(2\varphi) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon_h^2), \quad (5.22)$$

where $b_1(r_c)$ is the correction to the function b in the ansatz for the metric, evaluated at the critical radius.

Finally we would like to discuss the regime of validity of our analysis. In this section we introduce additional electric fields coupled to the charged quark, but we do not take into account the effect that they have on the SYM plasma. On the other hand we take into account the effect of the magnetic field on the plasma. This can be justified if the quark is moving sufficiently slow and the Lorentz force and the viscous force (both proportional to the velocity of the quark) can be compensated with electric fields weak relative to the magnetic field. Comparing to the discussion in section 2.4, for our solution to still be reliable we consider that the electric field enters, effectively, at order ϵ^2 . This is the regime in which our analysis applies.

5.2 Jet quenching

In this section we will compute the jet quenching parameter \hat{q} for our anisotropic plasma, extending the computation of [44].

We will follow the analysis of ref. [60], where jet quenching in anisotropic plasma have been studied. In our case the anisotropy is due to external magnetic field which triggers synchrotron radiation. Therefore one would expect the motion of the fundamental string to encode both the phenomena of jet quenching and the energy loss due to synchrotron radiation. This suggests that the prescription of refs. [56, 60] should be revised in the presence of external magnetic field. Technically this can be seen from the more general form of the fundamental string action (5.2). In particular the presence of the B -field term affects the prescription for the holographic calculation of the wilson loop. More precisely the on-shell action evaluated on the world sheet corresponding to the wilson loop is no longer purely imaginary which is crucial part of the derivations in refs. [56, 60].

To circumvent this difficulty we will constraint ourselves to motion parallel to the magnetic field. In this case the pull-back of the B -field on the world sheet vanish and the motion of the string is not directly affected by the external magnetic field. Physically the Lorentz force acting on the quarks vanish. This suggests that in the holographic calculation the wilson loop is given by the area of the world sheet and technically there are no difficulties in applying the prescription of refs. [56, 60]. Note that the energy loss of the quark is still indirectly affected by the external magnetic field through the alternated properties of the SYM plasma. We will sketch the derivation referring to [60] for details.¹²

We consider a parton moving along the direction parallel to the magnetic field, z , with the momentum broadening taking place in the transverse xy -plane. Due to the rotational symmetry in the transverse plane we can choose \hat{q} to lay along the x -direction.

¹²See [61, 62] as well.

In order to cover more general situations we consider the following class of metrics

$$ds_{10}^2 = G_{tt} dt^2 + G_{11} dx^2 + G_{22} dy^2 + G_{33} dz^2 + G_{rr} dr^2 + \dots \quad (5.23)$$

where the ellipses denote compact directions. After introducing light-cone coordinates

$$z^\pm = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (t \pm z) , \quad (5.24)$$

we consider a rectangular Wilson loop with contour C . The expectation value of the Wilson loop is given by the extremum of the Nambu-Goto action for a string with endpoints tracing the contour C . We consider a quark moving along z^- and fix the reparameterization invariance by identifying $(z^-, r) = (\tau, \sigma)$. Moreover we set $z^+ = 0$ and specify the string embedding through the function $x = x(r)$, subject to the boundary condition $x(\pm\ell/2) = 0$. The Nambu-Goto action for this configuration is then given by

$$S = 2i \frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{2\pi R^2} \int dz^- \int_0^{\ell/2} dr \sqrt{\frac{1}{2} (G_{tt} + G_{33}) (G_{rr} + G_{11} x'^2)} , \quad (5.25)$$

where $x' = dx/dr$ and the action is imaginary because the string worldsheet is spacelike. Since the action does not depend on x explicitly we obtain the equation of motion for $x(r)$

$$x'^2 = \frac{\pi_x^2}{4 G_{11} (G_{tt} + G_{33}) - \pi_x^2} \frac{G_{rr}}{G_{11}} . \quad (5.26)$$

The turning point for the string is at $x' = 0$ and following the prescription of [56] and [63] we will work in the limit $\ell \rightarrow 0$, which corresponds to the limit $\pi_x \rightarrow 0$. Integrating (5.26) and taking the limit for $\pi_x \rightarrow 0$, we obtain the separation length between the endpoints of the string

$$L = \pi_x \mathcal{I}_x + \mathcal{O}(\pi_x^2) \quad \text{with} \quad \mathcal{I}_x \equiv \int_{r_h}^{r_*} \frac{\sqrt{G_{rr}}}{G_{11} \sqrt{G_{tt} + G_{33}}} dr . \quad (5.27)$$

For the computation of the jet quenching parameter we have to evaluate the action on shell and focus on the L^2 term after using (5.27). In way we have

$$S = \frac{iL^-}{8\sqrt{2}} \frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{2\pi R^2} \frac{2L^2}{\mathcal{I}_x} , \quad (5.28)$$

The prescription given in [56] and [63] for the jet quenching parameter is

$$e^{i2S} = \exp \left[-\frac{L^- \ell^2}{4\sqrt{2}} \hat{q} \right] \quad \Rightarrow \quad \hat{q} = \frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{2\pi R^2} \frac{2}{\mathcal{I}_x} . \quad (5.29)$$

We rewrite this expression in terms of field theory quantities, namely the 't Hooft coupling at the temperature scale, $\lambda_h \equiv \lambda e^{\Phi_h}$ and the temperature, given by (3.1). We obtain a correction to the unflavored jet-quenching in the presence of a small magnetic field given by

$$\hat{q} = \frac{\pi^{3/2} \Gamma(\frac{3}{4})}{\Gamma(\frac{5}{4})} \sqrt{\lambda_h} T^3 \left[1 + \frac{1}{8} \epsilon_h \left[2 + \pi + \frac{r_m^4}{r_h^4} \left(3 - \frac{1}{6} M_{\text{cor}} \right) + \mathcal{O} \left(\frac{r_m}{r_h} \right)^8 \right] + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon_h^2) \right] , \quad (5.30)$$

with

$$M_{\text{cor}} = \pi (\log 8 - \pi) + {}_4F_3 \left[1, 1, 1, \frac{5}{4}; \frac{7}{4}, 2, 2; 1 \right] \approx -1.99143. \quad (5.31)$$

Unfortunately we were not able to find a closed expression for the jet quenching parameter when generic magnetic field is present.

Comparison to the non-magnetic case. To understand whether the presence of the magnetic field enhances or reduces the energy loss parameterized by \hat{q} with respect to a theory without magnetic field, we must compare the expression (5.30) obtained before between the two different theories.

The result in (5.30) can be written as

$$\hat{q} = \hat{q}_0 \left(1 + \epsilon_h \frac{r_m^4}{r_h^4} \mathcal{M} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon_h^2) \right), \quad (5.32)$$

where

$$\hat{q}_0 = \frac{\pi^{3/2} \Gamma(\frac{3}{4})}{\Gamma(\frac{5}{4})} \sqrt{\lambda_h} T^3 \left[1 + \frac{\epsilon_h}{8} (2 + \pi) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon_h^2) \right], \quad (5.33)$$

is the flavored result in the absence of a magnetic field [44], which receives an enhancement of the jet quenching with respect to the unflavored setup, both in a scheme where the number of degrees of freedom (entropy density) and temperature are kept fixed or in a scheme where the energy density and the force between external quarks are fixed, indicating the robustness of the correction. The presence of the magnetic field is given by the factor $\mathcal{M} = (3/8 - M_{\text{cor}}/48)/8 \approx 5/12$ when the quark is moving along the direction of the transverse field.

To compare the magnetic and non-magnetic result we must state clearly under which conditions we are making this comparison. For example, if we choose to keep the entropy density and the temperature of the field theories the same, therefore allowing us to compare the values of \hat{q} per degree of freedom at fixed T , we observe that the parameters N_c in the $B = 0$ and $B \neq 0$ cases are related (in the $r_m < r_h$ approximation) by

$$N_{c,B} = N_{c,B=0} \left[1 - \frac{\epsilon_h}{4} \frac{r_m^4}{r_h^4} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon_h^2) \right]. \quad (5.34)$$

This correction enters in the jet quenching parameter via $\sqrt{\lambda_h} \sim N_c^{1/2}$, giving

$$\frac{\hat{q}_B}{\hat{q}_{B=0}} = \left[1 + \epsilon_h \frac{r_m^4}{r_h^4} \left(\mathcal{M} - \frac{1}{8} \right) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon_h^2) \right], \quad (5.35)$$

implying that the presence of a magnetic field enhances the jet quenching if the quarks are moving parallel to the magnetic field.

We could have chosen to fix N_c as well as the entropy density, allowing T to vary. In that case the temperatures in the presence and absence of a magnetic field are related by

$$T_B = T_{B=0} \left[1 - \frac{\epsilon_h}{6} \frac{r_m^4}{r_h^4} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon_h^2) \right] \Rightarrow \frac{\hat{q}_B}{\hat{q}_{B=0}} = \left[1 + \epsilon_h \frac{r_m^4}{r_h^4} \left(\mathcal{M} - \frac{1}{2} \right) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon_h^2) \right]. \quad (5.36)$$

Therefore, in this scheme the presence of an anisotropy induced by the magnetic field reduces the jet quenching for motion parallel to magnetic field.

6 Conclusions

In this work we have presented a solution to the equations of motion of type IIB supergravity in the presence of a smeared set of $N_f \gg 1$ D7 branes. This solution is perturbative in the backreaction parameter $\epsilon_h \sim \lambda_h \frac{N_f}{N_c}$. The presence of a finite magnetic field sources an anisotropy in the solution which leaves a footprint in physical observables.

We have studied the thermodynamics associated to the magnetically anisotropic solution at first order in backreaction. Results for thermodynamic quantities like the entropy, free energy or magnetization coincide with studies performed in the quenched approximation, in which the dynamics of the matter in the fundamental representation decouples from the dynamics of the adjoint degrees of freedom. However, the quenched setup fails to describe the anisotropy due to the magnetic field. Actually, this probe approximation is only valid at small magnetic fields (compared to the scale of the temperature), where the anisotropy is very mild and the component of the NSNS potential, $B_{xy}(r)$, is approximately constant (see figure 5). At larger magnetic fields the backreaction of the branes onto the geometry creates a non trivial profile of the B_{xy} component, which is itself reflected in an anisotropy in the metric.

We have presented expressions for the pressure of the plasma in the directions parallel and orthogonal to the magnetic field, that –not surprisingly– do not coincide for finite magnetic field. This has as a consequence that the speed of sound in the two normal directions of the plasma do not coincide between them. Actually, from equations (3.22) and (3.24) we observe that both speeds of sound have a value lower than the conformal setup, signaling that scale invariance is broken by the magnetic field at first order in ϵ_h , even when we have massless D7 branes (in the absence of magnetic field this is not the case, even when a charge density is present in the setup).

The breaking of the conformality means that we must not necessarily have a traceless stress-energy tensor. However, from direct inspection in section 4, we have $\langle T^\mu{}_\mu \rangle = 0$ at first order in backreaction. A word of caution is needed here. As discussed in some extent in the text, the 00 component of the stress-energy tensor corresponds to the magnetic enthalpy, and not the internal energy of the system. Therefore one must not conclude that the tracelessness of the s-e tensor implies an equation of state of the form $\mathcal{U} = 2P_\perp + P_\parallel$. In fact, given the relation between the magnetic enthalpy and the internal energy (3.10) we have

$$\mathcal{U} = 2P_\perp + P_\parallel + BM . \tag{6.1}$$

The last consequence of the anisotropy we have studied is the implications of the magnetic field in the energy loss of a heavy quark moving through the plasma. The lack of explicit isotropy has as a consequence that the energy loss depends on the direction of movement of the quark. Furthermore, if the quark is charged it will feel a Lorentz force due to the presence of the magnetic field.

An alternative approach to the jet quenching calculation we presented in this work is through fluctuation analysis, relating the jet quenching parameter to momentum broadening [64]. In this reference the jet quenching is related to the transport coefficient associated to Langevin diffusion inside the plasma. A similar analysis of the jet quenching parameter

for a deformed $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM after introducing massless flavor branes in the Veneziano limit was presented in [65]. Since the background is analytic, but perturbative in the number of flavors, it is possible to obtain perturbative expressions for the jet quenching around the unquenched result. We believe that the same analysis could be very well extended in our case, with the only concern on the complexity of the solution after the inclusion of the magnetic field. Generically, it seems a straightforward computation that will circumvent the issue of generalizing the “standard” recipe of the jet quenching calculation.

One interesting question that is raised immediately is what are the shear and bulk viscosities of the magnetic plasma. The shear viscosity is a tensorial quantity that has been seen in [66] not to satisfy the KSS value $\eta/s = 1/4\pi$ for the anisotropic plasma of [67] (this situation happens as well in condensed phases of holographic superfluids, as was proposed in [68] and checked explicitly in [69]). Here we have an anisotropy sourced by a 2-form instead of a scalar, and this may complicate the analysis of the perturbations to calculate the shear viscosity via a Kubo formula. Due to the lack of conformality at first order in ϵ_h we expect that the bulk viscosity is non-zero as well, but proportional to BM .

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank Irene Amado, Daniel Areán, Jorge Casalderrey-Solana, Aldo Cotrone and Mariano Chernicoff for comments.

The work of M.A. was supported by National Science Foundation grant PHY-07-57702. The research of V.F. is supported by an IRCSET/Marie Curie fellowship. J.T. is supported by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) under the FOM Foundation research program. D. Z. is funded by the FCT fellowship SFRH/BPD/62888/2009. Centro de Física do Porto is partially funded by FCT through the projects PTDC/FIS/099293/2008 and CERN/FP/116358/2010.

A Equations of motion from the effective action

The expression for the one-dimensional effective lagrangian is given by \mathcal{L}_{eff}

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} = & -\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{h'}{h} \right)^2 + 12 \left(\frac{S'}{S} \right)^2 + 8 \frac{F' S'}{F S} + 24 b_T^2 b^2 F^2 S^6 - 4 b_T^2 b^2 F^4 S^4 \\
 & + \left(\frac{b'_T}{b_T} + \frac{b'}{b} \right) \left(\frac{h'}{h} + 8 \frac{S'}{S} + 2 \frac{F'}{F} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \frac{b'}{b} \left(\frac{b'}{b} + \frac{4b'_T}{b_T} \right) - \frac{b_T^2 b^2 Q_c^2}{2h^2} \quad (\text{A.1}) \\
 & - \frac{1}{2} Q_f^2 b_T^2 b^2 e^{2\Phi} S^8 \left(1 + \frac{e^{-\Phi} H^2 h}{b^2} \right) - 4 Q_f b_T^2 b^2 e^{\Phi} F^2 S^6 \sqrt{1 + \frac{e^{-\Phi} H^2 h}{b^2}} \\
 & - \frac{1}{2} \Phi'^2 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{e^{-\Phi} H'^2 h}{b^2} \left(1 - \frac{e^{2\Phi} J'^2 b^2}{b_T^2 H'^2} \right) - Q_c H J' .
 \end{aligned}$$

Defining the following auxiliary (dimensionless) expressions

$$\beta_1 \equiv \sqrt{1 + \frac{e^{-\Phi} H^2 h}{b^2}}, \quad \beta_2 \equiv 1 + \frac{e^{2\Phi} J'^2 b^2}{H'^2 b_T^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \beta_3 \equiv 1 + \frac{e^{-2\Phi} H'^2 \beta_2}{Q_f^2 H^2 b_T^2 b^2 S^8} \quad (\text{A.2})$$

we can write the equations of motion in the following compact way

$$\partial_\sigma^2(\log b_T) = 0 \tag{A.3}$$

$$\partial_\sigma^2(\log b) = -\frac{4Q_f H^2 b_T^2 h S^6 F^2}{\beta_1} - e^\Phi H^2 Q_f^2 b_T^2 h S^8 \beta_3, \tag{A.4}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_\sigma^2(\log h) = & -Q_c^2 \frac{b_T^2 b^2}{h^2} - \frac{2Q_f H^2 b_T^2 h S^6 F^2}{\beta_1} - \frac{1}{2} e^\Phi H^2 Q_f^2 b_T^2 h S^8 \beta_3 \\ & + (1 - \beta_2) \frac{e^{-\Phi} h H'^2}{b^2}, \end{aligned} \tag{A.5}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_\sigma^2(\log S) = & -2b_T^2 b^2 F^4 S^4 + 6b_T^2 b^2 F^2 S^6 - \frac{Q_f e^\Phi b_T^2 b^2 F^2 S^6}{\beta_1} \\ & + \frac{1}{4} e^\Phi H^2 Q_f^2 b_T^2 h S^8 \beta_3, \end{aligned} \tag{A.6}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_\sigma^2(\log F) = & 4b_T^2 b^2 F^4 S^4 - \frac{1}{4} (1 + \beta_1^2) Q_f^2 e^{2\Phi} b_T^2 b^2 S^8 + \frac{Q_f H^2 b_T^2 h S^6 F^2}{\beta_1} \\ & + \frac{1}{4} \frac{e^{-\Phi} h H'^2 \beta_2}{b^2}, \end{aligned} \tag{A.7}$$

$$\partial_\sigma^2 \Phi = \frac{1}{2} (1 + \beta_1^2) \left[Q_f^2 e^{2\Phi} b_T^2 b^2 S^8 + \frac{4Q_f b_T^2 b^2 e^\Phi S^8}{\beta_1} \right] - \frac{1}{2} \frac{e^{-\Phi} h H'^2 \beta_2}{b^2}, \tag{A.8}$$

$$\partial_\sigma \left[\frac{e^{-\Phi} h H'}{b^2} \right] = e^\Phi Q_f^2 H b_T^2 h S^8 + Q_c J' + \frac{4Q_f H b_T^2 h S^6 F^2}{\beta_1}. \tag{A.9}$$

It is straightforward to check that the above set of equations, together with (2.11), solve the full set of Einstein equations, provided the following “zero-energy” constraint is also satisfied

$$\begin{aligned} 0 = & -\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{h'}{h} \right)^2 + 12 \left(\frac{S'}{S} \right)^2 + 8 \frac{F' S'}{F S} - 24 b_T^2 b^2 F^2 S^6 + 4 b_T^2 b^2 F^4 S^4 \\ & + \left(\frac{b'_T}{b_T} + \frac{b'}{b} \right) \left(\frac{h'}{h} + 8 \frac{S'}{S} + 2 \frac{F'}{F} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{b'}{b} \right) \left(\frac{b'}{b} + \frac{4b'_T}{b_T} \right) + \frac{b_T^2 b^2 Q_c^2}{2h^2} \\ & + \frac{1}{2} Q_f^2 b_T^2 b^2 e^{2\Phi} S^8 \left(1 + \frac{e^{-\Phi} H^2 h}{b^2} \right) + 4 Q_f b_T^2 b^2 e^\Phi F^2 S^6 \sqrt{1 + \frac{e^{-\Phi} H^2 h}{b^2}} \\ & - \frac{1}{2} \Phi'^2 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{e^{-\Phi} H'^2 h}{b^2} \left(1 - \frac{e^{2\Phi} J'^2 b^2}{b_T^2 H'^2} \right). \end{aligned} \tag{A.10}$$

This constraint can be thought of as the $\sigma\sigma$ component of the Einstein equations. Differentiating (A.10) and using (2.11) and (A.4)–(A.9) we are getting zero, meaning that the system is not overdetermined.

B Analytic perturbative solution of the equations of motion

The homogeneous solutions for the equations (2.24)–(2.25) are

$$b_1^H = K_{b,1} + K_{b,2} \log \left[1 - \frac{r_h^4}{r^4} \right], \quad (\text{B.1})$$

$$\Lambda_1^H = K_{\Lambda,1} \left(2 \frac{r^4}{r_h^4} - 1 \right) + K_{\Lambda,2} \left[2 + \left(2 \frac{r^4}{r_h^4} - 1 \right) \log \left[1 - \frac{r_h^4}{r^4} \right] \right], \quad (\text{B.2})$$

$$\Upsilon_1^H = K_{\Upsilon,1} \left(2 \frac{r^4}{r_h^4} - 1 \right) + K_{\Upsilon,2} \left[2 + \left(2 \frac{r^4}{r_h^4} - 1 \right) \log \left[1 - \frac{r_h^4}{r^4} \right] \right], \quad (\text{B.3})$$

$$\Delta_1^H = K_{\Delta,1} P_{1/2} \left(2 \frac{r^4}{r_h^4} - 1 \right) + K_{\Delta,2} Q_{1/2} \left(2 \frac{r^4}{r_h^4} - 1 \right), \quad (\text{B.4})$$

$$\phi_1^H = K_{\phi,1} + K_{\phi,2} \log \left[1 - \frac{r_h^4}{r^4} \right], \quad (\text{B.5})$$

$$H_1^H = K_{H,1} \frac{r^4}{r_h^4} + K_{H,2} \left[1 + \frac{r^4}{r_h^4} \log \left[1 - \frac{r_h^4}{r^4} \right] \right]. \quad (\text{B.6})$$

The solutions with integration constant $K_{\Psi,1}$ are regular at the horizon whereas the ones with $K_{\Psi,2}$ diverge logarithmically there. This situation is reversed at infinity, where the solutions with $K_{\Psi,2}$ tend to zero whereas the ones with $K_{\Psi,1}$ can diverge or go to a constant. Also, in principle $Q_{1/2}(2r^4/r_h^4 - 1)$ has an imaginary part, but this is just $P_{1/2}(2r^4/r_h^4 - 1)$ and can be absorbed in $K_{\Delta,1}$. In the following, we will consider just the real part of $Q_{1/2}(2r^4/r_h^4 - 1)$ and that constants $K_{\Delta,1,2}$ are real.

The particular solution for every equation can be found in the following way. Defining

$$G_{\Psi}(r) \equiv \frac{A_{\Psi} r^4 + B_{\Psi} r_m^4}{(r^4 - r_h^4) \sqrt{r^4 + r_m^4}}, \quad (\text{B.7})$$

a particular solution of the corresponding inhomogeneous differential equation is given by

$$\Psi_1^{(p)}(r) = -\Psi_1^{(1)}(r) \int^r \frac{\Psi_1^{(2)}(\tilde{r}) G_{\Psi}(\tilde{r})}{W(\tilde{r})} d\tilde{r} + \Psi_1^{(2)}(r) \int^r \frac{\Psi_1^{(1)}(\tilde{r}) G_{\Psi}(\tilde{r})}{W(\tilde{r})} d\tilde{r}, \quad (\text{B.8})$$

with $\Psi_1^{(1,2)}$ the homogeneous solutions accompanied by the constants $K_{\Psi(1,2)}$ and

$$W \equiv \Psi_1^{\prime(2)}(r) \Psi_1^{(1)}(r) - \Psi_1^{\prime(1)}(r) \Psi_1^{(2)}(r), \quad (\text{B.9})$$

the Wronskian. With the symbol \int^r we denote an antiderivative, therefore no lower bound is considered (its addition amounts to a shift in the constants of integration for the homogeneous solutions). This method also works for H_1 , but in that case

$$G_H(r) \equiv \frac{4r^4}{(r^4 - r_h^4) \sqrt{r^4 + r_m^4}}. \quad (\text{B.10})$$

The solutions can be expressed in terms of the following expressions

$$ad_n(r) \equiv \frac{1}{r_h^{n-1}} \int^r \frac{\tilde{r}^n \log \left[1 - \frac{r_h^4}{\tilde{r}^4} \right]}{\sqrt{\tilde{r}^4 + r_m^4}} d\tilde{r}, \quad (\text{B.11})$$

which for the special cases $n = 1, 5, 9$ read

$$\begin{aligned}
 ad_1(r) &= \frac{1}{4} \left[2\text{Li}_2 \left[\frac{\alpha_r + 1}{\alpha_r - 1} \right] - \text{Li}_2 \left[\frac{\alpha_r + 1}{\alpha_r - 1} \frac{\alpha_{r_h} + 1}{\alpha_{r_h} - 1} \right] - \text{Li}_2 \left[\frac{\alpha_r + 1}{\alpha_r - 1} \frac{\alpha_{r_h} - 1}{\alpha_{r_h} + 1} \right] \right], \\
 ad_5(r) &= -\frac{1}{2} (\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1) ad_1(r) + \frac{1}{4} \alpha_r \frac{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1}{\alpha_r^2 - 1} \log \left[\frac{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - \alpha_r^2}{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1} \right] - \frac{1}{4} \log \left[(\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1) \frac{\alpha_r + 1}{\alpha_r - 1} \right] \\
 &\quad + \frac{1}{4} \alpha_{r_h} \log \left[\frac{\alpha_r + \alpha_{r_h}}{\alpha_r - \alpha_{r_h}} \right], \tag{B.12} \\
 ad_9(r) &= \frac{3}{8} (\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1)^2 ad_1(r) + \frac{1}{16} \alpha_r (5 - 3\alpha_r^2) \left(\frac{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1}{\alpha_r^2 - 1} \right)^2 \log \left[\frac{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - \alpha_r^2}{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1} \right] - \frac{1}{8} \alpha_r \frac{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1}{\alpha_r^2 - 1} \\
 &\quad + \frac{1}{16} \alpha_{r_h} (5 - 3\alpha_{r_h}^2) \log \left[\frac{\alpha_r + \alpha_{r_h}}{\alpha_r - \alpha_{r_h}} \right] - \frac{1}{4} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} \alpha_{r_h}^2 \right) \log \left[(\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1) \frac{\alpha_r + 1}{\alpha_r - 1} \right],
 \end{aligned}$$

with as usual

$$\alpha_r \equiv \sqrt{1 + \frac{r_m^4}{r^4}}, \quad \alpha_{r_h} \equiv \sqrt{1 + \frac{r_m^4}{r_h^4}}, \quad \alpha_{r_*} \equiv \sqrt{1 + \frac{r_m^4}{r_*^4}}. \tag{B.13}$$

We express the solution¹³ in terms of the dimensionless parameters α_r, α_{r_h} and α_{r_*} .

Solution for ϕ_1 . The solution for ϕ_1 which is regular at the horizon and vanishes at $r = r_*$ is

$$\phi_1 = \frac{1}{4} \log \left[\frac{\alpha_r + 1}{\alpha_r - 1} \frac{\alpha_{r_*} - 1}{\alpha_{r_*} + 1} \right] + \frac{1}{2} \alpha_{r_h} \log \left[\frac{\alpha_{r_*} + \alpha_{r_h}}{\alpha_r + \alpha_{r_h}} \right]. \tag{B.14}$$

Whenever we calculate a physical quantity we will set the scale r_* at the horizon $r_* = r_h$, indicating that we are working in the IR range of energies.

Solution for b_1 . The solution for b_1 which is regular at the horizon and vanishes at $r = r_s$ is

$$\begin{aligned}
 b_1 &= (\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1) \left[\frac{1}{4} \log \left[\frac{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - \alpha_r^2}{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1} \right] \log \left[\frac{\alpha_r - 1}{\alpha_r + 1} \frac{\alpha_{r_h} + 1}{\alpha_{r_h} - 1} \right] \right. \\
 &\quad \left. - \frac{1}{4} \log \left[\frac{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - \alpha_{r_s}^2}{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1} \right] \log \left[\frac{\alpha_{r_s} - 1}{\alpha_{r_s} + 1} \frac{\alpha_{r_h} + 1}{\alpha_{r_h} - 1} \right] + ad_1(r) - ad_1(r_s) \right]. \tag{B.15}
 \end{aligned}$$

The following limit of (B.15) will be useful in thermodynamic calculations

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lim_{r_s \rightarrow \infty} b_1(r_h) &= -\frac{1}{24} (\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1) \left[\pi^2 + 12 \log^2 (\alpha_{r_h} - 1) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + 12 \log^2 (\alpha_{r_h} + 1) - 6 \log^2 (\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1) + 12 \text{Li}_2 \left[\frac{1 + \alpha_{r_h}}{1 - \alpha_{r_h}} \right] \right]. \tag{B.16}
 \end{aligned}$$

¹³We do not include the expression for Δ_1 since it is given in terms of integrals that cannot be evaluated analytically. Furthermore, we do not need its explicit form in the text.

Solution for Λ_1 . The solution for Λ_1 ¹⁴ which is regular at the horizon and vanishes at $r = r_s$ is

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda_1^{\text{NH}} = & \frac{1}{2} \frac{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1}{\alpha_r^2 - 1} (2\alpha_{r_h}^2 - \alpha_r^2 - 1) \left[ad_1(r) - 2ad_5(r) - \frac{1}{2} \log \left[(\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1) \frac{\alpha_r + 1}{\alpha_r - 1} \right] \right] \\ & + \frac{1}{4} (\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1) \left(2 - \frac{\alpha_r^2 - 2\alpha_{r_h}^2 + 1}{\alpha_r^2 - 1} \log \left[\frac{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - \alpha_r^2}{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1} \right] \right) \\ & \times \left(\alpha_r \frac{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1}{\alpha_r^2 - 1} - \frac{1}{2} \alpha_{r_h}^2 \log \left[(\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1) \frac{\alpha_r + 1}{\alpha_r - 1} \right] \right), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.17})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Lambda_1 = & C_{\Lambda_1} \frac{2\alpha_{r_h}^2 - \alpha_r^2 - 1}{\alpha_r^2 - 1} + \Lambda_1^{\text{NH}}(r) \\ & - \frac{1}{4} \alpha_{r_h} (\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1) (1 - \alpha_{r_h} \log[1 + \alpha_{r_h}]) \left(2 - \frac{\alpha_r^2 - 2\alpha_{r_h}^2 + 1}{\alpha_r^2 - 1} \log \left[\frac{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - \alpha_r^2}{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1} \right] \right). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.18})$$

The following limit of (B.18) will be useful in thermodynamic calculations

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{r_s \rightarrow \infty} \Lambda_1(r_h) = & -\frac{1}{48} (\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1) \left[12 + \pi^2 \alpha_{r_h}^2 - 6\alpha_{r_h}^2 \log^2(\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1) + 12\alpha_{r_h}^2 \text{Li}_2 \left[\frac{1 + \alpha_{r_h}}{1 - \alpha_{r_h}} \right] \right] \\ & + 24\alpha_{r_h} \log \left[\frac{2\alpha_{r_h}}{1 + \alpha_{r_h}} \right] + 12\alpha_{r_h}^2 (\log^2[\alpha_{r_h} - 1] + \log^2[\alpha_{r_h} + 1]). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.19})$$

Solution for Υ_1 . The solution for Υ_1 ¹⁵ is

$$\begin{aligned} \Upsilon_1^{\text{NH}} = & -\frac{1}{2} \frac{2\alpha_{r_h}^2 - \alpha_r^2 - 1}{\alpha_r^2 - 1} \left[\frac{1}{2} (\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1) \log \left[\frac{\alpha_r + 1}{\alpha_r - 1} \right] - 4\alpha_r \frac{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1}{\alpha_r^2 - 1} \right. \\ & \left. + 3(\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1) ad_1(r) + 2(7 - 3\alpha_{r_h}^2) ad_5(r) - 16ad_9(r) \right] \\ & - \frac{1}{4} (\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1) (3\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 2) \left(2 - \frac{\alpha_r^2 - 2\alpha_{r_h}^2 + 1}{\alpha_r^2 - 1} \log \left[\frac{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - \alpha_r^2}{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1} \right] \right) \\ & \times \left(\alpha_r \frac{-3 + 7\alpha_{r_h}^2 - \alpha_r^2(1 + 3\alpha_{r_h}^2)}{(\alpha_r^2 - 1)^2 (3\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 2)} + \frac{1}{2} \log \left[\frac{\alpha_r + 1}{\alpha_r - 1} \right] \right), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.20})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Upsilon_1 = & C_{\Upsilon_1} \frac{2\alpha_{r_h}^2 - \alpha_r^2 - 1}{\alpha_r^2 - 1} + \Upsilon_1^{\text{NH}}(r) \\ & - \frac{1}{8} (\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1) \left(6\alpha_{r_h} + (2 - 3\alpha_{r_h}^2) \log \left[\frac{\alpha_{r_h} + 1}{\alpha_{r_h} - 1} \right] \right) \left(2 - \frac{\alpha_r^2 - 2\alpha_{r_h}^2 + 1}{\alpha_r^2 - 1} \log \left[\frac{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - \alpha_r^2}{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1} \right] \right). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.21})$$

¹⁴The value of the constant C_{Λ_1} is determined by requiring $\Lambda_1(r_s) = 0$.

¹⁵The value of the constant C_{Υ_1} is determined by requiring $\Upsilon_1(r_s) = \frac{2}{9}$.

The following limit of (B.21) will be useful in thermodynamic calculations

$$\lim_{rs \rightarrow \infty} \Upsilon_1(r_h) = -\frac{1}{4} \left[3\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 4\alpha_{r_h} - 1 + 6\alpha_{r_h} (\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1) \log \left[\frac{2\alpha_{r_h}}{1 + \alpha_{r_h}} \right] + (3\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 2) (\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1) \left(\frac{\pi^2}{12} + \text{Li}_2 \left[\frac{1 + \alpha_{r_h}}{1 + \alpha_{r_h}} \right] + \frac{1}{2} \log^2 \left[\frac{\alpha_{r_h} - 1}{\alpha_{r_h} + 1} \right] \right) \right]. \quad (\text{B.22})$$

Solution for H_1 . The solution for H_1 ¹⁶ is

$$H_1^{\text{NH}} = -\frac{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1}{\alpha_r^2 - 1} \left(ad_5(r) + \frac{1}{4} \log \left[\frac{\alpha_r + 1}{\alpha_r - 1} \right] \right) \quad (\text{B.23})$$

$$+ \frac{1}{4} (\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1) \left(1 + \frac{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1}{\alpha_r^2 - 1} \log \left[\frac{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - \alpha_r^2}{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1} \right] \right) \left(\frac{\alpha_r}{\alpha_r^2 - 1} - \frac{1}{2} \log \left[\frac{\alpha_r + 1}{\alpha_r - 1} \right] \right),$$

$$H_1 = C_{H_1} \frac{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1}{\alpha_r^2 - 1} + H_1^{\text{NH}}(r) \quad (\text{B.24})$$

$$- \frac{1}{4} \left(\alpha_{r_h} + \frac{1}{2} (1 - \alpha_{r_h}^2) \log \left[\frac{\alpha_{r_h} + 1}{\alpha_{r_h} - 1} \right] \right) \left(1 + \frac{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1}{\alpha_r^2 - 1} \log \left[\frac{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - \alpha_r^2}{\alpha_{r_h}^2 - 1} \right] \right).$$

The limiting cases $r_h \rightarrow 0$ and $r_m \rightarrow 0$ can be obtained, recovering the results in [49] and [44] respectively.

C Calculation of the Gibbs free energy

Applying the general recipe of [70] we identify the on-shell Euclidean action, divided by the inverse temperature, with the Gibbs free energy (in an ensemble where the magnetic field is kept fixed). The Euclidean action has contributions from both bulk and surface terms given by the following expressions

$$\mathcal{I}_{\text{bulk}} = \frac{V_4 \pi^3}{2\kappa_{10}^2} \int \mathcal{L}_{\text{IB}} d\sigma \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{I}_{\text{surf}} = -\frac{V_4 \pi^3}{\kappa_{10}^2} \sqrt{\gamma} K, \quad (\text{C.1})$$

where \mathcal{L}_{IB} is the wick rotated action (2.6) and in $\mathcal{I}_{\text{surf}}$ is the standard Gibbons-Hawking term. In order to generate \mathcal{L}_{eff} , defined in (A.1), we need to integrate by parts and get rid of second order derivative terms. This in turn will lead us to consider boundary terms, on-shell, only of the form ψ'_a/ψ_a , where ψ_a is a collective notation for the background functions (b, b_T, h, F, S, Φ). While at $r = r_s$ those terms are canceled by the contribution of the Gibbons-Hawking term, they remain at the horizon. It turns out that the only non-vanishing term is coming from the function b_T , with the following contribution

$$- 2 \frac{\partial_\sigma b_T}{b_T} \Big|_{\sigma=\infty} = 4 r_h^4. \quad (\text{C.2})$$

In other words

$$\mathcal{I} = \mathcal{I}_{\text{bulk}} + \mathcal{I}_{\text{surf}} = \beta \frac{\pi^3 V_3}{2\kappa_{10}^2} \left(4 r_h^4 - \int \mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} d\sigma \right). \quad (\text{C.3})$$

¹⁶The value of the constant C_{H_1} is determined by requiring $H_1(r_s) = 0$.

Expanding in ϵ_h and using (2.20) we have

$$\mathcal{I} = \mathcal{I}_0 + \epsilon_h \mathcal{I}_{\text{DBI}} + \epsilon_h \mathcal{I}_{\text{bound}} + O(\epsilon_h^2), \tag{C.4}$$

and more explicitly, changing the radial coordinate to r

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}_0 &= \beta \frac{\pi^3 V_3}{2 \kappa_{10}^2} (6 r_s^4 - 2 r_h^4), \quad \mathcal{I}_{\text{DBI}} = -\beta \frac{\pi^3 V_3}{2 \kappa_{10}^2} 4 \int_{r_h}^{r_s} dr r \sqrt{r^4 + r_m^4} \\ \mathcal{I}_{\text{bound}} &= -\beta \frac{\pi^3 V_3}{2 \kappa_{10}^2} r_h^4 \left[b_1(r_h) - 3\Lambda_1(r_h) + \Upsilon_1(r_h) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \left(1 - 2 \frac{r_s^4}{r_h^4} \right) [5b_1(r_s) + 5\Lambda_1(r_s) - \Upsilon_1(r_s)] \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{C.5}$$

This action is infinite and should be regularized by subtracting the zero temperature on-shell Euclidean action. We take r_s as the radial cut-off for the integrals, such that the finite and zero temperature geometries coincide. Since $g_{tt}^T(r_s) \neq g_{tt}^0(r_s)$, we rescale the Euclidean time of the zero temperature solution in the following way [44]

$$\beta_0 = \beta \left(1 - \frac{r_h^4}{r_s^4} \right)^{1/2}, \tag{C.6}$$

where β is the period of the Euclidean time of the finite temperature solution. Doing so it is easy to prove that

$$I = -\frac{1}{8} \beta N_c^2 \pi^2 T^4 \left[1 + \epsilon_h \left(-\frac{1}{2} + \sqrt{1 + \frac{r_m^4}{r_h^4}} + \frac{r_m^4}{r_h^4} \log \left[\frac{r_h^2 + \sqrt{r_h^4 + r_m^4}}{r_m^2} \right] \right) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon_h^2) \right], \tag{C.7}$$

and consequently (3.14).

D ADM energy and Brown-York tensor

In this appendix we show that the definition of the ADM energy used in (3.7) coincides with the calculation of the tt component of the boundary Brown-York tensor, given by $E_{BY} = -\int d^3x \sqrt{-\gamma} k_i \xi_j \tau^{ij}$, where k is the unit-norm vector orthogonal to the $t = \text{constant}$ surfaces, $\xi = \partial_t$ is a Killing vector and

$$\tau^{ij} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{-\gamma}} \frac{\delta S_{5d}}{\delta \gamma_{ij}} \tag{D.1}$$

the Brown-York boundary tensor. The calculation is done by noticing that in the boundary metric, γ_{ij} , $b_T(r_s)$ enters only in the γ_{tt} component, then we can trade γ_{tt} by b_T in the calculation¹⁷

$$b_T(r_s) \frac{\delta S_{5d}}{\delta b_T(r_s)} = b_T(r_s) \frac{\delta S_{5d}}{\delta \gamma_{tt}} \frac{\delta \gamma_{tt}}{\delta b_T(r_s)} = 2\gamma_{tt} \frac{\delta S_{5d}}{\delta \gamma_{tt}}. \tag{D.2}$$

¹⁷Notice that we express the radial dependence of fields in terms of the radial coordinates r or σ indistinctively, depending on which one is more convenient for every step.

On the other hand

$$\frac{\delta S_{5d}}{\delta b_T(r_s)} = -\frac{V_3 V_{SE}}{2\kappa_{10}^2} \frac{\delta}{\delta b_T(r_s)} \int^{\sigma_s} \mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} d\sigma, \quad (\text{D.3})$$

where we are using (A.1) to define \mathcal{L}_{eff} . Using the equation of motion for b_T we can express the on-shell value of \mathcal{L}_{eff} as a total derivative and perform the integral and the variation

$$\frac{\delta S_{5d}}{\delta b_T(r_s)} = \frac{V_3 V_{SE}}{2\kappa_{10}^2} \frac{\partial L_{\text{eff}}}{\partial b'_T} \Big|_{\sigma_s} = \frac{V_3 V_{SE}}{2\kappa_{10}^2} \frac{2}{b_T(\sigma_s)} \partial_\sigma \log \sqrt{hb^2 b_T^2 F^2 S^8} \Big|_{\sigma_s}. \quad (\text{D.4})$$

Therefore, from the BY definition

$$E_{BY} = - \int d^3x \sqrt{-\gamma} k_i \xi_j \tau^{ij} = -b_T(r_s) \frac{\delta S_{5d}}{\delta b_T(r_s)} = -\frac{V_3 V_{SE}}{\kappa_{10}^2} \partial_\sigma \log \sqrt{hb^2 b_T^2 F^2 S^8} \Big|_{\sigma_s} \quad (\text{D.5})$$

Now, the ADM mass is defined in (3.7) as

$$E_{ADM} = -\frac{V_3 V_{SE}}{\kappa_{10}^2} \sqrt{-g_{tt}} \sqrt{g_8} K_T = -\frac{V_3 V_{SE}}{\kappa_{10}^2} \frac{\sqrt{-g_{tt}}}{\sqrt{g_{\sigma\sigma}}} \partial_\sigma \sqrt{hb^2 F^2 S^8} = E_{BY}. \quad (\text{D.6})$$

Therefore, as far as we implement the same regularization procedure, these two quantities coincide and, as we have argued in the main text, can be identified with the magnetic enthalpy in the field theory side.

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