

# Entanglement area law from specific heat capacity

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We study the scaling of entanglement in low-energy states of quantum many-body models on lattices of arbitrary dimensions. We allow for unbounded Hamiltonians such that systems with bosonic degrees of freedom are included. We show that, if at low enough temperatures the specific heat capacity of the model decays exponentially with inverse temperature, the entanglement in every low-energy state satisfies an area law (with a logarithmic correction). This behavior of the heat capacity is typically observed in gapped systems. Assuming merely that the low-temperature specific heat decays polynomially with temperature, we find a subvolume scaling of entanglement. Our results give experimentally verifiable conditions for area laws, show that they are a generic property of low-energy states of matter, and constitute proof of an area law for unbounded Hamiltonians beyond those that are integrable.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The amount of entanglement in low-energy states of quantum many-body models has been the subject of intense examination. The problem was originally studied in relation to the Bekenstein entropy formula for black holes [1–3] and more recently also in the context of condensed-matter physics and quantum information theory [4–11]. The behavior of entanglement in physically relevant states is an interesting topic not only due to the resource character of entanglement in quantum information [12,13] but also because it can be used to elucidate aspects of the physics of the system [5,9]. Another motivation comes from the observation that systems with a large amount of entanglement are usually hard to simulate classically. As a consequence it is useful to identify when there is only limited entanglement in the system. Indeed it turns out that in many circumstances a small amount of entanglement leads to good ways to simulate the physics of the model numerically [14–17].

Given a bipartite pure state  $|\psi\rangle_{AB}$ , the entanglement entropy of  $A$  with  $B$  is given by [12,13]

$$E(|\psi\rangle_{AB}) := S(\rho_A) = -\text{tr}(\rho_A \log \rho_A), \quad (1)$$

with  $\rho_A = \text{tr}_B(\rho)$  being the reduced density matrix of  $|\psi\rangle_{AB}$  on the region  $A$  and  $S(\rho_A)$  its von Neumann entropy.

Starting with Refs. [2–4] and later also with Refs. [6–9] for quantum quasifree systems and [10,11] for integrable quantum spin systems, a large body of work appeared indicating that low-energy states of local models satisfy an *area law* [5]; i.e., the entanglement of a contiguous region with its complementary region is proportional to its boundary, in contrast to its volume as is the typical behavior for a generic quantum state [18].

The problem is particularly well understood for ground states of one-dimensional (1D) bounded Hamiltonians: A

seminal result of Hastings [17] (see also Arad *et al.* [19]) gives an area law for the ground state of every 1D gapped model. Recently this result was generalized to an area law for every one-dimensional state that has a finite correlation length [20,21]. In contrast, there are ground states of gapless 1D models (or states with diverging correlation length) with a volume scaling of entanglement [22,23].

Systems in dimensions larger than one are not nearly as well understood and, apart from solvable cases [5–8], almost nothing is known for unbounded Hamiltonians like those of bosonic systems. Neither states with a finite correlation length nor, more particularly, ground states of gapped models are known to universally obey an area law. It is thus interesting to find further conditions under which an area law can be proven, which is the approach taken in Refs. [24–28]. In this paper we follow this direction and link area laws to another important property of physical systems, different from spectral gap and correlation length. Namely, we connect it to the specific heat capacity of the model at low temperatures. We show that, whenever the specific heat decays with the temperature fast enough, the entanglement of *every* low-energy state of the model is significantly limited.

## II. SETTING AND MAIN RESULTS

We focus on translationally invariant nearest-neighbor Hamiltonians on a  $d$ -dimensional lattice,  $\Lambda := \{1, \dots, n\}^d$ , and consider nontranslational local Hamiltonians acting beyond nearest neighbors in Appendix A. When one separates the on-site terms and the terms coupling nearest neighbors, the Hamiltonian reads

$$H = \sum_{i \in \Lambda} H_i + \sum_{i \in \Lambda} H_{B(i)}, \quad (2)$$

where each  $H_i$  acts only on site  $i$  and each  $H_{B(i)}$  only on  $B(i) = \{j \in \Lambda \mid |i - j| \leq 1\}$ . Without loss of generality we assume that the ground state energy is zero. We connect the scaling of entanglement in the ground state to the specific heat

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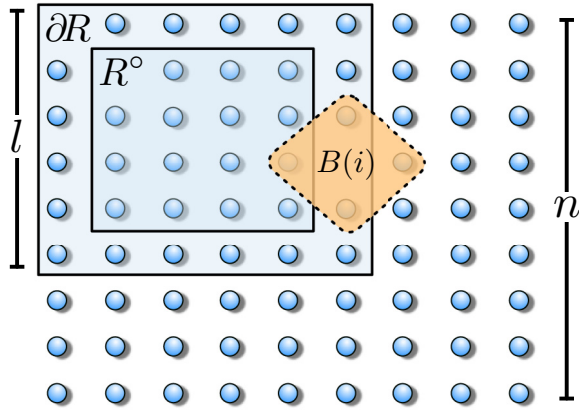


FIG. 1. (Color online) The cubic lattice  $\Lambda = \{1, \dots, n\}^d$  under consideration. We consider Hamiltonians  $H = \sum_{i \in \Lambda} (H_i + H_{B(i)})$ , where each  $H_i$  acts only on site  $i$  and each  $H_{B(i)}$  only on nearest neighbors  $B(i)$ . The area law is obtained for cubic region  $R$  of edge length  $l$ , which may be partitioned into its boundary  $\partial R$  and interior  $R^\circ$ . Whenever  $i \in \partial R$  then  $H_{B(i)}$  acts on  $R^\circ$  and  $\Lambda \setminus R$  as shown by the yellow region. For unbounded  $H_{B(i)}$  these terms enter the area-law bound through Eq. (7).

of the thermal state. To this end, we define the thermal state at temperature  $T$  as  $\rho_T := e^{-H/T} / Z_T$ , where  $Z_T := \text{tr}(e^{-H/T})$  is the partition function (we set Boltzmann's constant to 1). The energy and entropy densities are given by  $u(T) := \text{tr}(H\rho_T)/n^d$  and  $s(T) := S(\rho_T)/n^d$ , respectively. Finally, we define the specific heat capacity at temperature  $T$  as

$$c(T) := \dot{u}(T) = \frac{1}{n^d T^2} \text{Cov}_{\rho_T}(H, H), \quad (3)$$

where we use the notation  $\dot{u}(T) = \frac{du}{dT}(T)$  as we do in the following for all functions depending on temperature and  $\text{Cov}_\rho(A, B) = \langle (A - \langle A \rangle_\rho)^\dagger (B - \langle B \rangle_\rho) \rangle_\rho$  denotes the covariance of operators  $A$  and  $B$  in  $\rho$ .

We need to be able to put bounds on the  $H_{B(i)}$ . If these are bounded operators, we simply set  $h = \|H_{B(i)}\|$ . As we are allowing for infinite-dimensional Hilbert spaces, this is a bit more tricky for unbounded operators. The quantity corresponding to  $h$  turns out to be state dependent and requires some notation. To introduce it, we consider an example first. The Bose-Hubbard model,

$$H = -J \sum_{|i-j|=1} b_i^\dagger b_j + U \sum_i n_i(n_i - 1) - \mu \sum_i n_i, \quad (4)$$

may be written as in Eq. (2) with  $H_i = U n_i(n_i - 1) - \mu n_i$  and

$$H_{B(i)} = -J b_i^\dagger \sum_{j: |i-j|=1} b_j. \quad (5)$$

Let us consider a cubic region,  $R = \{1, \dots, l\}^d$ , and let  $i \in R$ . We may bipartition  $B(i)$  in the following way. Write  $A = B(i) \cap R$  and  $B = B(i) \cap (\Lambda \setminus R)$ . Then  $A \subset R$  and  $B \subset \Lambda \setminus R$ . If  $i$  is in the “interior”  $R^\circ = \{2, \dots, l-1\}^d$  of  $R$  then  $B$  is empty and  $H_{B(i)}$  acts only on  $R$ . If, however,  $i$  is in the “boundary”  $\partial R = R \setminus R^\circ$  of  $R$  then it also acts on sites outside of  $R$ . For example, if  $i$  is as in Fig. 1 then  $A = \{i, i - e_1, i - e_2, i + e_2\}$  and  $B = \{i + e_1\}$ , with  $e_s$  being

the Euclidean unit vectors. We may then write

$$H_{B(i)} = \sum_{k=1}^K h_A^{(k)} \otimes h_B^{(k)}, \quad (6)$$

with  $K = 2$  and  $h_A^{(1)} = -J b_i^\dagger$ ,  $h_B^{(1)} = b_{i+e_1}$ ,  $h_B^{(2)} = \mathbb{1}_B$ , and  $h_A^{(2)}$  collecting the remaining terms which only act on  $A$ . In this way, we may write  $H_{B(i)}$  as in Eq. (6) for any  $i \in \partial R$  and this is of course also possible for more general Hamiltonians than the Bose-Hubbard model. For a given translationally invariant state  $\rho$  and a given Hamiltonian  $H$  as in Eq. (2) with  $H_{B(i)}$ ,  $i \in \partial R$ , as in Eq. (6) we may thus define

$$h(\rho) = \max_{i \in \partial R} \left| \sum_{k=1}^K \text{Cov}_\rho(h_A^{(k)\dagger}, h_B^{(k)}) \right|, \quad (7)$$

where  $\text{Cov}_\rho(h_A, h_B)$  is the covariance of operators  $h_A$  and  $h_B$  in  $\rho$  as defined above and we note that, by the Cauchy Schwarz inequality,  $|\text{Cov}_\rho(h_A, h_B)|^2 \leq \text{Cov}_\rho(h_A, h_A) \text{Cov}_\rho(h_B, h_B)$ . For example, for the Bose-Hubbard model one finds

$$h(\rho) \leq 2d|J| \text{Cov}_\rho(b_i, b_i) \leq 2d|J| \langle n_i \rangle_\rho \quad (8)$$

such that an upper bound is provided by the mean occupation number.

Given a region  $R \subset \Lambda$ , we denote by  $\text{tr}_{\Lambda \setminus R}$  the partial trace over all sites in  $\Lambda$  except those in  $R$  and write  $\rho_R = \text{tr}_{\Lambda \setminus R}(\rho)$ . Our main result is the following (we present the case of nontranslationally invariant local Hamiltonians that act beyond nearest neighbors in Appendix A).

**Proposition 1.** Let  $H$  be a translationally invariant nearest-neighbor Hamiltonian on a  $d$ -dimensional lattice  $\Lambda = \{1, \dots, n\}^d$  as in Eq. (2) and let  $R$  be a cubic region of edge length  $l$  (and volume  $l^d$ ). Let  $H$  have ground-state degeneracy  $D$  and let  $\rho = |\psi\rangle\langle\psi|$ , a translationally invariant state with  $\text{tr}(H\sigma) \leq Cn^d/l$  for some  $C \geq 1$ . Let  $T_c$  such that

$$u(T_c) = \frac{C + 4dh(\sigma)}{l}. \quad (9)$$

If there are  $\gamma, k, \Delta > 0$  such that for every  $T \leq T_c$

(i)  $c(T) \leq k(\Delta/T)^\gamma e^{-\Delta/T}$ , then there is a constant  $C_0$  depending only on  $C, \gamma, \Delta, k, h$ , and  $d$  such that

$$S(\rho_R) \leq C_0 l^{d-1} \log(l); \quad (10)$$

(ii)  $c(T) \leq k(T/\Delta)^\gamma$ , then there is a constant  $C_0$  depending only on  $C, \gamma, \Delta, k, h$ , and  $d$  such that

$$S(\rho_R) \leq C_0 l^{d-1+\frac{1}{\gamma+1}}. \quad (11)$$

Here,  $h = \|H_{B(i)}\|$  for bounded  $H_{B(i)}$  and  $h = h(\rho)$  as in Eq. (6) for unbounded  $H_{B(i)}$ .

Part (i) gives an area law with logarithmic correction for the von Neumann entropy of every low-energy state, assuming that the specific heat decreases exponentially with inverse temperature at temperatures smaller than  $T_c$ , which decreases with increasing  $l$ . Part (ii), in turn, shows merely a subvolume law; however only the weaker assumption  $c(T) \leq kT^\gamma$  is required.

We expect that part (i) of the proposition can be strengthened to show a strict area law, without a logarithmic correction. However we do not have a proof and leave it as an open question. A drawback of the proposition is that one must

know the behavior of the specific heat at arbitrary small temperatures. This can be circumvented if we assume that at small temperatures the heat capacity is monotonically increasing with temperature, as is usually observed. Then it is enough that the heat capacity decays as specified in the proposition only in the range  $[T_c/2, T_c]$ .

Which Hamiltonians have these two types of heat capacity dependence on temperature? Although we do not have a general result concerning the question, the class of systems satisfying the required conditions appears to be very large. Indeed gapped models are expected to have  $c(T) \leq T^{-\nu} e^{-\Delta/T}$  at all sufficiently small temperatures [29]. Examples where this has been verified explicitly—both in theory and experimentally—are superconductors [30–32], quantum Hall systems [33–35], and some lattice spin systems [36–38]. The condition  $c(T) \leq T^\gamma$  is even more general and is the behavior routinely observed in measurements of heat capacity of solids. It is an interesting open question to give more rigorous results in this respect.

An appealing aspect of the result is that the heat capacity is readily accessible experimentally (in fact the decay of the heat capacity of the form  $T^{-\nu} e^{-\Delta/T}$  is many times used as an experimental signature that the system has a spectral gap  $\Delta$ ; for instance, the first measurement of the superconductor gap was achieved precisely by measuring this form for the specific heat [31]). Thus one can infer an area law even when the Hamiltonian is not fully known.

### III. PROOF

The proof of the proposition is relatively simple. It is a consequence of the variational characterization of thermal states as states of minimum free energy, together with standard thermodynamical formulas relating specific heat, energy density, and entropy density. We start with the following lemma.

*Lemma 1.* Let  $H$  on  $\Lambda = \{1, \dots, n\}^d$  be as above and let  $R$  be a cubic region of edge length  $l$ . For every translational state  $\rho$  and temperature  $T$  such that  $u(T) \geq \text{tr}(H\rho)/n^d + 4dh(\rho)/l$ , one has

$$S(\rho_R) \leq l^d s(T). \quad (12)$$

Here,  $h(\rho) = \|H_{B(i)}\|$  for bounded  $H_{B(i)}$  and  $h(\rho)$  as in Eq. (6) for unbounded  $H_{B(i)}$ .

*Proof.* Partition the lattice into  $M = n^d/l^d$  cubic subsets  $R_1, \dots, R_M$ , each of edge-length  $l$ , and define

$$\sigma = \bigotimes_{m=1}^M \rho_{R_m}, \quad (13)$$

for which  $\sigma_{R_m} = \rho_{R_m}$ , i.e.,  $\sigma$  and  $\rho$  coincide locally on each  $R_m$ . As the thermal state minimizes the free energy  $F_T(\rho) := \text{tr}(H\rho) - TS(\rho)$  (this well-known property of the free energy is a direct consequence of the identity  $F_T(\rho) = F_T(\rho_T) + S(\rho||\rho_T)$ , where  $S(\rho||\rho_T)$  is the relative entropy, which is always non-negative), one finds

$$TS(\sigma) \leq TS(\rho_T) - \text{tr}(H\rho_T) + \text{tr}(H\rho) - \text{tr}[H(\rho - \sigma)]. \quad (14)$$

Using translational invariance and the fact that  $\rho$  and  $\sigma$  coincide on each  $R_m$ ,

$$\text{tr}[H(\rho - \sigma)] = M \sum_{i \in \partial R_1} \text{tr}[H_{B(i)}(\rho_{B(i)} - \sigma_{B(i)})], \quad (15)$$

such that for bounded  $H_{B(i)}$

$$|\text{tr}[H(\rho - \sigma)]| \leq 2M \max_m |\partial R_m| h \leq 4dhMl^{d-1}. \quad (16)$$

For unbounded  $H_{B(i)}$ ,  $i \in \partial R_1$ , we write

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}[H_{B(i)}(\rho - \sigma)] &= \text{tr}[H_{B(i)}(\rho - \sigma_{R_1} \otimes \sigma_{\Lambda \setminus R_1})] \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^K \text{Cov}_\rho(h_A^{(k)\dagger}, h_B^{(k)}). \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

By the additivity of the entropy and translational invariance  $MS(\sigma_{R_1}) = \sum_{m=1}^M S(\sigma_{R_m}) = S(\sigma)$  and by Eq. (14) and the above bounds,

$$S(\sigma) \leq S(\rho_T) + \frac{\text{tr}(H\rho) - n^d u(T) + 4dh(\rho)Ml^{d-1}}{T}, \quad (18)$$

such that the assertion follows by the choice of  $M$  and whenever  $\sigma$  and  $T$  are as in the hypothesis. ■

We now turn to the proof of the proposition.

*Proof of Proposition 1.* By Lemma 1 and for  $\rho$  and  $T_c$  as in the hypothesis,

$$\frac{1}{l^d} S(\sigma_R) \leq s(T_c) = s(0) + \int_0^{T_c} dT \frac{\dot{u}(T)}{T}. \quad (19)$$

We now derive a bound on temperatures  $T$  below  $T_c$  in terms of  $u(T)$ . For  $c(T)$  upper bounded as in part (ii)

$$\frac{u(T)}{k} = \int_0^T dt \frac{c(t)}{k} \leq \int_0^T dt \frac{t^\gamma}{\Delta^\gamma} = \frac{\Delta}{\gamma+1} \left(\frac{T}{\Delta}\right)^{\gamma+1}, \quad (20)$$

i.e.,  $T^{-1} \leq C_{k,\Delta,\gamma} \dot{g}[u(T)]$ , where  $g(u) = u^{\frac{\gamma}{\gamma+1}}$ . Hence,

$$\int_0^{T_c} dT \frac{\dot{u}(T)}{C_{k,\Delta,\gamma} T} \leq \int_0^{T_c} dT \frac{d}{dT} g[u(T)] = g[u(T_c)], \quad (21)$$

which, when inserting the definition of  $g$  and combining it with Eq. (19), proves part (ii). Part (i) is proved in complete analogy and may be found in Appendix A. ■

### IV. COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS WORK

The fact that the Gibbs state minimizes the free energy is instrumental in the proof of Proposition 1. It is not the first time that this relation has been used in the context of area laws: It was employed in Ref. [39] to show a general area law for the mutual information of every Gibbs state of a local Hamiltonian at constant temperature. Concerning ground states, Hastings [24] and Masanes [25] proved an area law with a  $O(\log(n))$  correction (logarithmic of the total system size) for gapped models, assuming that the density of states  $D(E)$  grows polynomially in the volume of the lattice for energies  $E \leq O(n^d)$ , i.e.  $D(E) \leq n^{O(E)}$ . The density of states and the

heat capacity are related by

$$n^d T^2 c(T) = \frac{1}{Z_T} \int D(E) e^{-E/T} E^2 dE - \left( \frac{1}{Z_T} \int D(E) e^{-E/T} E dE \right)^2.$$

Therefore it is interesting to compare the results of Refs. [24,25] with Proposition 1. Assuming  $D(E) \leq n^{cE}$  for a constant  $c \geq 0$  and that  $H$  has spectral gap  $\Delta > 0$  we find

$$c(T) \leq \frac{1}{n^d T^2} \int_{\Delta}^{\infty} n^{cE} e^{-E/T} E^2 dE \leq O(T^{-1} n^{c\Delta-d} e^{-\Delta/T}). \quad (22)$$

Thus, part (i) of Proposition 1 gives that  $S(\text{tr}_{\Lambda \setminus R}(|\psi\rangle\langle\psi|)) \leq O(l^{d-1} \log(n))$ , recovering the area law result of Refs. [24,25].<sup>1</sup> Our argument has the advantage of being simpler than Refs. [24,25], which were based on high temperature expansion and Lieb-Robinson bounds, respectively. In contrast all we need is the variational principle for the free energy and basic relations between specific heat and energy/entropy.

## V. PEPS APPROXIMATION

Hastings [24] also proved that under the above assumption on the density of states, a constant spectral gap, and a bounded Hamiltonian, the ground state is well approximated by the Gibbs state at temperature  $O(1/\log(n))$ . Using the results of Ref. [40] it was then argued that such ground states are well approximated by a projected-pair-entangled-operator [PEPO—the mixed state analog of projected-pair-entangled-states (PEPS)] [14] of quasipolynomial  $\exp[O(\log^d(n))]$  bond dimension. We can easily show that this is already the case under our assumption on the heat capacity:

Under the assumptions of part (i) of Proposition 1, one can show (see Appendix B) that for every  $0 < \delta \leq 1$  and  $T \leq \delta/\log(n)$  the maximally mixed state  $\rho_0$  on the ground space of  $H$  is well approximated by the thermal state at temperature  $T$ ,

$$\|\rho_T - \rho_0\|_1 \lesssim \left( \frac{\log(n)}{\delta} \right)^{\gamma-1} n^{d-\Delta/\delta}, \quad (23)$$

where  $\Delta$  and  $\gamma$  are as in Proposition 1. Reference [41], which builds on Refs. [40,42], shows that  $\rho_T$  can be approximated with error  $\varepsilon$  in trace norm by a PEPO of bond dimension  $(n/\varepsilon)^{O(\log(n))}$ .

## VI. CONCLUSION

We showed that specific heat dependence on temperature commonly observed in gapped systems implies an area law with logarithmic correction for every low-energy state and, building on Refs. [40–42], that the ground state can be approximated by a PEPS of small bond dimension. Even the mild

assumption that the heat capacity decays polynomially already puts nontrivial constraints on the amount of entanglement in the system. We believe our results are valuable for four main reasons: first, the condition on the specific heat is natural, can be checked experimentally, and relates entanglement scaling to a thermodynamic quantity; second, it implies an area law not only for the ground state but also for every state of sufficiently low energy; third, it applies to unbounded Hamiltonians; and finally, the argument is very simple. It is an interesting open question to prove a strict area law, without any logarithmic correction, under the assumption of an exponentially decreasing specific heat. Another interesting direction for future research is to elucidate the class of models having the required behavior for the specific heat. Although examples of gapped models violating it can be constructed, it might still be possible to prove it for a large class of gapped models.

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## APPENDIX A: MORE GENERAL VERSION OF PROPOSITION 1 AND LEMMA 1

We let  $H$  be an  $r$ -local Hamiltonian on a  $d$ -dimensional cubic lattice  $\Lambda = \{1, \dots, n\}^d$ . That is,

$$H = \sum_{i \in \Lambda} H_{B_r(i)}, \quad (A1)$$

where each  $H_{B_r(i)}$  acts only on sites

$$B_r(i) = \{j \in \Lambda \mid d(i, j) \leq r\}, \quad (A2)$$

where  $d(\cdot, \cdot)$  denotes the Manhattan distance in the lattice. Let  $M = n^d/l^d$  and partition

$$\Lambda = \bigcup_{m=1}^M R_m \quad (A3)$$

with  $R_m$  cubes of edge length  $l$  and denote by

$$\mathbb{E}[f(R)] = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^M f(R_m) \quad (A4)$$

the uniform expectation of  $f$  over all the  $R_m$ . Further,  $R_m = v + \{1, \dots, l\}^d$  for appropriate  $v = v(m)$  and we denote the “interior” of  $R_m$  by  $R_m^\circ = v + \{1+r, \dots, l-r\}^d$  and the “boundary” of  $R_m$  by  $\partial R_m = R_m \setminus R_m^\circ$ , for which we have  $|\partial R_m| \leq 2drl$ . For given  $i \in \partial R_m$  let  $A = A(i) = B_r(i) \cap R_m$ ,  $B = B(i) = B_r(i) \cap (\Lambda \setminus R_m)$ , and

$$H_{B_r(i)} = \sum_{k=1}^K h_A^{(i,k)} \otimes h_B^{(i,k)}. \quad (A5)$$

For a given state  $\rho$  define

$$h(\rho) = \min \left\{ \max_{i \in \Lambda} \|H_{B_r(i)}\|, \max_{i \in \partial R} \left| \sum_{k=1}^K \text{Cov}_\rho(h_A^{(i,k)\dagger}, h_B^{(i,k)}) \right| \right\}. \quad (A6)$$

<sup>1</sup>We note Ref. [25] also shows that if the density of states of the sub-Hamiltonian on region  $R$  plus a boundary of  $R$  [of width  $O(\log |\partial R|)$ ] grows polynomially with the energy (up to energies of order  $|\partial R|$ ) and the ground state has a finite correlation length, then it satisfies an area law with a correction of  $O(\log |R|)$ .

For states  $\rho$  and  $A \subset \Lambda$  we denote  $\rho_A = \text{tr}_{\Lambda \setminus A}[\rho]$  as the state obtained by tracing over all sites apart from those in  $A$ . We have the following lemma.

**Lemma 2.** If  $\sigma$  and  $T$  are such that  $\text{tr}(H\sigma)/n^d + 4drh(\sigma)/l \leq u(T)$  then  $\mathbb{E}[S(\sigma_R)] \leq l^d s(T)$ .

*Proof.* Define

$$\tilde{\sigma} = \bigotimes_{i=1}^M \sigma_{R_i}, \quad (\text{A7})$$

for which  $\tilde{\sigma}_{R_i} = \sigma_{R_i}$ ; i.e.,  $\sigma$  and  $\tilde{\sigma}$  coincide locally on each  $R_i$ . As the thermal state minimizes the free energy we have

$$\begin{aligned} TS(\tilde{\sigma}) &\leq TS(\rho_T) - \text{tr}(H\rho_T) + \text{tr}(H\tilde{\sigma}) \\ &= TS(\rho_T) - \text{tr}(H\rho_T) + \text{tr}(H\sigma) - \text{tr}[H(\sigma - \tilde{\sigma})], \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A8})$$

where, as  $\sigma$  and  $\tilde{\sigma}$  coincide on each  $R_i$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}[H(\sigma - \tilde{\sigma})] &= \sum_{i \in \Lambda} \text{tr}[H_{B_r(i)}(\sigma - \tilde{\sigma})] \\ &= \sum_{m=1}^M \sum_{i \in R_m} \text{tr}[H_{B_r(i)}(\sigma - \tilde{\sigma})] \\ &= \sum_{m=1}^M \sum_{i \in \partial R_m} \text{tr}[H_{B_r(i)}(\sigma_{B_r(i)} - \tilde{\sigma}_{B_r(i)})], \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A9})$$

such that for bounded  $H_{B_r(i)}$

$$|\text{tr}[H(\sigma - \tilde{\sigma})]| \leq 2M \max_m |\partial R_m| \max_i \|H_{B_r(i)}\| \leq 4drhn^d/l. \quad (\text{A10})$$

For unbounded  $H_{B_r(i)}$ ,  $i \in \partial R$ , we write

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}(H_{B_r(i)}^{(i)}(\sigma - \tilde{\sigma})) &= \text{tr}(H_{B_r(i)}^{(i)}(\sigma - \sigma_{R_m} \otimes \sigma_{\Lambda \setminus R_m})) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^K \text{Cov}_\sigma(h_A^{(i,k)\dagger}, h_B^{(i,k)}). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A11})$$

Hence, by the additivity of the entropy,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^M S(\sigma_{R_i}) &= S(\tilde{\sigma}) \\ &\leq S(\rho_T) + n^d \frac{\text{tr}(H\sigma)/n^d + 4drh(\sigma)/l - u(T)}{T} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A12})$$

and thus the assertion follows whenever  $\sigma$  and  $T$  are as in the hypothesis.  $\blacksquare$

**Proposition 2.** Let  $\sigma$  such that  $\text{tr}(H\sigma) \leq Cn^d/l$  for some  $C \geq 1$  and  $T_c$  such that

$$u(T_c) = \frac{C + 4drh(\sigma)}{l}. \quad (\text{A13})$$

Then

$$\mathbb{E}[S(\sigma_R)] \leq s(0)l^d + F_{k,\gamma,\Delta,l}l^{d-1}, \quad (\text{A14})$$

where, if  $c(T) \leq k(T/\Delta)^\gamma$  for some  $k, \Delta, \gamma > 0$  and all  $T \leq T_c$ ,

$$F_{k,\gamma,\Delta,l} = \frac{k^{\frac{1}{\gamma+1}}}{\gamma} (\gamma + 1)^{\frac{\gamma}{\gamma+1}} \left( \frac{C + 4drh(\sigma)}{\Delta} \right)^{\frac{\gamma}{\gamma+1}} l^{\frac{1}{\gamma+1}} \quad (\text{A15})$$

and, if  $c(T) \leq k(\Delta/T)^\gamma e^{-\Delta/T}$  for some  $k, \Delta, \gamma > 0$  and all  $T \leq T_c$ ,

$$F_{k,\gamma,\Delta,l} = 2[\ln(k\gamma^{\gamma-1}) + 1 + \gamma/2 + \ln(l)] \frac{C + 4drh(\sigma)}{\Delta}. \quad (\text{A16})$$

*Proof.* By Lemma 2 and for  $\sigma$  and  $T_c$  as in the hypothesis,

$$\frac{1}{Ml^d} \sum_{i=1}^M S(\sigma_{R_i}) \leq s(T_c) = s(0) + \int_0^{T_c} dT \frac{\dot{u}(T)}{T}. \quad (\text{A17})$$

We now derive a bound on temperatures  $T$  below  $T_c$  in terms of  $u(T)$ . For  $c(T) \leq k(T/\Delta)^\gamma$ ,  $\Delta, \gamma > 0$ , we have

$$u(T) = \int_0^T dt c(t) \leq k \int_0^T dt (t/\Delta)^\gamma = \frac{k\Delta}{\gamma+1} (T/\Delta)^{\gamma+1}, \quad (\text{A18})$$

i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\Delta}{T} &\leq \left( \frac{k\Delta}{\gamma+1} \right)^{\frac{1}{\gamma+1}} [u(T)]^{-\frac{1}{\gamma+1}} \\ &= \left( \frac{k\Delta}{\gamma+1} \right)^{\frac{1}{\gamma+1}} \frac{\gamma+1}{\gamma} \dot{g}[u(T)], \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A19})$$

$$g(u) = u^{\frac{\gamma}{\gamma+1}},$$

such that

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{T_c} dT \frac{\dot{u}(T)}{T} &\leq \frac{1}{\Delta} \left( \frac{k\Delta}{\gamma+1} \right)^{\frac{1}{\gamma+1}} \frac{\gamma+1}{\gamma} \int_0^{T_c} dT \dot{g}[u(T)] \dot{u}(T) \\ &= \frac{1}{\Delta} \left( \frac{k\Delta}{\gamma+1} \right)^{\frac{1}{\gamma+1}} \frac{\gamma+1}{\gamma} \{g[u(T_c)] - g[u(0)]\} \\ &= \frac{1}{\Delta} \left( \frac{k\Delta}{\gamma+1} \right)^{\frac{1}{\gamma+1}} \frac{\gamma+1}{\gamma} [u(T_c)]^{\frac{\gamma}{\gamma+1}}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A20})$$

Now let  $c(T) \leq k(\frac{\Delta}{T})^\gamma e^{-\Delta/T}$ ,  $\Delta, k > 0$ , and  $\gamma \geq 0$ . For  $0 \leq t \leq 1/\gamma$ , the function  $e^{-1/t}t^{-\gamma}$  is nondecreasing in  $t$  such that for  $T \leq T_c \leq \Delta/\gamma$

$$\begin{aligned} u(T) &= \int_0^T dt c(t) \leq k\Delta \int_0^{\frac{T}{\Delta}} dt T^{-\gamma} e^{-1/t} \\ &\leq k\Delta (T/\Delta)^{1-\gamma} e^{-\Delta/T} \leq \gamma^{\gamma-1} \left( \frac{\Delta}{\gamma T} e^{-\frac{\Delta}{\gamma T}} \right)^\gamma \\ &\leq k\gamma^{\gamma-1} e^{-\frac{\Delta}{2T}}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A21})$$

i.e., for  $T \leq T_c \leq \Delta/\gamma$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\Delta}{2T} &\leq \ln(k\gamma^{\gamma-1}) - \ln[u(T)] = \ln(k\gamma^{\gamma-1}) + \dot{g}[u(T)], \\ g(u) &= u - u \ln(u), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A22})$$



such that for  $T_c \leq \Delta/\gamma$

$$\int_0^{T_c} dT \frac{\dot{u}(T)}{T} \leq \frac{2}{\Delta} \ln(k\gamma^{\gamma-1})u(T_c) + \frac{2}{\Delta} \{g[u(T_c)] - g[u(0)]\} = \frac{2}{\Delta} \{\ln(k\gamma^{\gamma-1}) + 1 - \ln[u(T_c)]\}u(T_c) \quad (\text{A23})$$

and for  $T_c > \Delta/\gamma$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^{T_c} dT \frac{\dot{u}(T)}{T} &= \int_0^{\frac{\Delta}{\gamma}} dT \frac{\dot{u}(T)}{T} + \int_{\frac{\Delta}{\gamma}}^{T_c} dT \frac{\dot{u}(T)}{T} \leq \int_0^{\frac{\Delta}{\gamma}} dT \frac{\dot{u}(T)}{T} + \frac{\gamma}{\Delta} [u(T_c) - u(\Delta/\gamma)] \\ &\leq \frac{2}{\Delta} \ln(k\gamma^{\gamma-1})u(\Delta/\gamma) + \frac{2}{\Delta} \{u(\Delta/\gamma) - u(\Delta/\gamma) \ln[u(\Delta/\gamma)]\} + \frac{\gamma}{\Delta} [u(T_c) - u(\Delta/\gamma)] \\ &= \frac{2 \ln(k\gamma^{\gamma-1}) - \gamma}{\Delta} u(\Delta/\gamma) + \frac{\gamma}{\Delta} u(T_c) + \frac{2}{\Delta} u(T_c) \left[ \frac{u(\Delta/\gamma)}{u(T_c)} - \frac{u(\Delta/\gamma)}{u(T_c)} \ln \left( \frac{u(\Delta/\gamma)}{u(T_c)} \right) - \frac{u(\Delta/\gamma) \ln[u(T_c)]}{u(T_c)} \right] \\ &\leq \frac{2}{\Delta} \{\ln(k\gamma^{\gamma-1}) + 1 - \ln[u(T_c)]\}u(\Delta/\gamma) + \frac{\gamma}{\Delta} u(T_c) - \frac{\gamma}{\Delta} u(\Delta/\gamma) - \frac{2}{\Delta} u(\Delta/\gamma), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A24})$$

where we used Eq. (A22) and the monotonicity of  $u(T)$  to bound the first integral and the monotonicity of  $x - x \ln(x)$  for  $0 \leq x \leq 1$  to obtain the last line. ■

## APPENDIX B: PEPO APPROXIMATION

*Proposition 3.* Let  $H$  be a Hamiltonian on a  $d$ -dimensional lattice,  $\Lambda := [n]^d$ . Let  $\rho_0$  be the maximally mixed state on the ground space of  $H$ . Suppose there are  $\Delta, k > 0$  and  $v \geq 0$  such that  $c(T) \leq kT^{-v}e^{-\Delta/T}$  for  $T \leq 1/\log(n)$ . Then for every  $1 \geq \delta > 0$  and  $T \leq \delta/\log(n)$ ,

$$\|\rho_T - \rho_0\|_1 \leq \eta := \frac{2k}{\Delta} \left( \frac{\log(n)}{\delta} \right)^{v-1} n^{d-\frac{\Delta}{\delta}}, \quad (\text{B1})$$

and there is a PEPO  $\pi$  of bond dimension  $(n/\varepsilon)^{O(\log(n))}$  such that  $\|\pi - \rho_0\|_1 \leq \varepsilon + \eta$ .

*Proof.* For  $T = \delta/\log(n)$  we find

$$s(T) - s(0) = \int_0^T \frac{C(T')}{T'} dT' \leq k \frac{\log^v(n)}{\delta^v n^{\frac{\Delta}{\delta}}}. \quad (\text{B2})$$

Equation (B1) follows from the previous equation and

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{Z_T} \sum_{k>0} e^{-E_k/T} &\leq \frac{T}{\Delta} \frac{1}{Z_T} \left( \sum_{k>0} \frac{E_k}{T} e^{-E_k/T} \right) \\ &= \frac{T}{\Delta} [S(\rho_T) - \log(Z_T)] \leq \frac{Tn^d}{\Delta} [s(T) - s(0)]. \end{aligned}$$

Reference [41], which builds on Refs. [40,42], shows that  $\rho_T$  can be approximated with error  $\varepsilon$  in trace norm by a PEPO of bond dimension  $(n/\varepsilon)^{O(\log(n))}$ . ■

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