Medium-induced emissions of hard gluons

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Abstract

We present a derivation of the medium-induced gluon radiation spectrum beyond the current limitation of soft gluon emission. Making use of the path integral approach to describe the propagation of high-energy particles inside a medium, we study the limiting case of a hard gluon emission. Analytical and numerical results are presented and discussed within the multiple soft scattering approximation. An ansatz interpolating between soft and hard gluon emissions is provided. The Landau-Pomeranchuk-Migdal effect is observed in the expected kinematic region.

1 Introduction

In ultrarelativistic heavy-ion collisions, a hot and dense medium is produced. One of the most important probes of this medium is the production of hadrons and jets with high transverse momentum that undergo energy loss processes. This leads to a collection of phenomena, usually referred to as jet quenching (reviews of the main models can be found in [1–3]), which have been already observed in heavy-ion collisions at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) ($\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV), such as the suppression of high-$p_T$ hadron spectra, and of di-hadron and $\gamma$-hadron correlations, see e.g. [1,2,4–6] and refs. therein.

Now, with the heavy-ion program at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the current Pb-Pb collision energy is much larger ($\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$ TeV) and, thus, observables characterized by semi-hard and hard scales are produced more abundantly. Some striking results have already been measured: the observation of a strong asymmetry in dijet transverse energy \cite{7,9}, and a strong nuclear suppression of high-$p_T$ light \cite{10,11} and heavy \cite{12} hadrons. The magnitude of these features at high energies strongly indicates the importance of a good description of high transverse momentum observables like jets.
The most commonly used jet quenching models describe the changes in hadron spectra and jet properties in terms of radiative energy loss processes [13, 14, 17, 20]. This kind of approaches neglects the energy transferred to the medium (recoil) and usually works in the limit of soft gluon emissions i.e. calculations of the medium-induced gluon radiation spectrum are made in the limiting case where the gluon carries a small fraction $x$ of the energy of its parent parton ($x \to 0$). The implications of such limitation on the computation of physical observables are discussed at length in [3]. Nevertheless, the original techniques in [13, 14, 17] can be extended beyond the limit $x \to 0$. This extension was studied for the case of the energy distribution in the BDMPS limit in Refs. [14–16, 20, 21]. Here we will present results beyond the BDMPS limit for the case of a hard gluon emission; some attempts in a similar direction can be found in [22, 23].

In this work, we use the path-integral formalism [15–17, 24–27] to compute a finite-energy correction for hard gluon emissions off a quarkinside a medium by studying the limiting case $x \to 1$. Afterwards, we generalize the result, in a heuristic manner, to include the already known limit of soft gluon emission. The paper is organized as follows. In the next section we will provide a small review of the medium-induced gluon radiation spectrum in the limit of soft gluon emissions, as well as the formalism used. Our calculation of the finite-energy correction will also be made in this section. In section 3 we will present the analytic results within the multiple soft scattering approximation [13, 15] for the final interpolation expression and the numerical discussion will be made in section 4. Finally, in section 5 a summary and future prospects will be presented.

Let us note that information about the size of finite energy corrections to medium-induced gluon radiation is badly needed in order to put the existing Monte Carlo models for jet quenching, which automatically include energy-momentum conservation - see e.g. [28–30], on more solid grounds. Together with research on the role of interferences from different emitters in the QCD shower [31–35], and the effects of color exchanges with the medium [36, 37], they constitute one of the main avenues in the recent developments of the theory of energy loss processes in a QCD medium.

2 Medium-induced gluon radiation

Consider the inelastic process shown in figure 1. A quark of 4-momentum $p$, $p_\perp = 0$,

$$k = xp$$

$$q = (1 - x)p$$

Figure 1: Radiation process of a gluon off a quark with the corresponding kinematical variables.

1We define the BDMPS limit as the one where $L \to \infty$ with $\omega/\omega_c$ finite, and $\omega_c = \frac{1}{2}qL^2$, see [24] for details. Here $\hat{q}$ is the transport coefficient encoding the properties of the medium, $L$ its length and $\omega$ the energy of the radiated gluon. Formally, this limit is equivalent to integrating the gluon transverse momentum up to infinity, neglecting the kinematic constraints.

2We will use light-cone coordinates defined as $a = (a_0, a_x, a_y, a_z)$ and $a_\perp = (a_0 \pm a_z)/\sqrt{2}$ and $a_\perp = (a_x, a_y)$. Furthermore, $C_A = N$ and $C_F = (N^2 - 1)/(2N)$ are the quadratic Casimirs in the adjoint and fundamental representations respectively, with $N$ the number of colors.
coming from a hard process with amplitude $M_h$, emits a gluon of 4-momentum $k$ with $+\text{-component } k_+ = xp_+$ and transverse momentum $k_\perp$.

Inside a medium, partons undergo multiple scattering. In the high-energy limit, the parton essentially conserves its energy and the effect of the medium is only a rotation of its color field, thus acquiring an eikonal phase. In this situation, a convenient way of describing the parton propagation is using Wilson lines,

$$W(x_{0+}, L_+; x_{\perp}) = \mathbb{P} \exp \left\{ ig \int_{x_{0+}}^{L_+} dx_+ A_-(x_+, x_{\perp}) \right\},$$

which describe the propagation of a particle through a medium with longitudinal boundaries at $[x_{0+}, L_+]$ and color field $A_-$. As for the less energetic parton, the restrictions of the above formula need to be relaxed to allow some motion in the transverse plane of the propagating particle (see e.g. [20][27] and refs. therein). By doing this, the Wilson line is replaced by the path integral propagator from $x_+, x_{0\perp}$ to $L_+, x_{\perp}$,

$$G(x_{0+}, x_{0\perp}; L_+, x_{\perp} | p_+) = \int_{r_\perp(x_{0+}) = x_{0\perp}}^{r_\perp(L_+) = x_{\perp}} \mathcal{D}r_\perp(\xi) \exp \left\{ \frac{ip_+}{2} \int_{x_{0+}}^{L_+} d\xi \left( \frac{dr_\perp}{d\xi} \right)^2 \right\} \times W(x_{0+}, L_+; r_\perp(\xi)),$$

which associates a Brownian motion of the particle in the transverse plane at the same time that its color field is rotated.

### 2.1 Soft limit: $x \to 0$

Considering the soft gluon emission limit ($x \to 0$), there are two contributions for the total amplitude: the case where the gluon does not interact after it is emitted (figure 2(a)), and the case where the radiation vertex is inside the medium (figure 2(b)).

This means that the total amplitude is given by

$$M_{\text{tot}}^{x \to 0} = M_{q}^{x \to 0} + M_{g}^{x \to 0},$$

where $M_{q}^{x \to 0}$ describes the diagram of figure 2(a) and $M_{g}^{x \to 0}$ describes the diagram of figure 2(b). Thus, the double differential spectrum of medium-induced radiation in this limit reads

$$k_+ \frac{dI^{\text{tot}}}{dk_+ d^2k_\perp} \bigg|_{x \to 0} = \left( \frac{M_{\text{tot}}^{x \to 0}}{2(2\pi)^3} \right) k_+ \frac{dI^{\text{vac}}}{dk_+ d^2k_\perp} \bigg|_{x \to 0} + k_+ \frac{dI^{\text{med}}}{dk_+ d^2k_\perp} \bigg|_{x \to 0},$$

3
where $\langle O \rangle$ denotes the medium average of $O$, see e.g. [26,27] and $\overline{O}$ makes reference to the spin and color averages. The vacuum contribution is recovered from $\langle |M_q^{\rightarrow 0}|^2 \rangle$:

$$k_+ \frac{dI^{vac}}{dk_+d^2k_\perp} \bigg|_{x \to 0} = \frac{\alpha_s C_F}{2\pi^2} \frac{1}{k_+^2}.$$  \hfill (5)

The medium contribution comes from the diagram [2(b)] with its own complex conjugate $(\langle M_g^{\rightarrow 0} \rangle)$, usually called *gluon* term, and from this same diagram with the complex conjugate of diagram [2(a)] $(\langle M_g^{\rightarrow 0} (M_q^{\rightarrow 0})^\dagger \rangle)$, denoted *interference* term$^3$.

$$k_+ \frac{dI^{med}}{dk_+d^2k_\perp} \bigg|_{x \to 0} = \frac{\alpha_s C_F}{2\pi^2} 2\text{Re} \left\{ \frac{1}{k_+} \int dy_+ dy_+ dx_\perp e^{-i k_\perp \cdot x_\perp} e^{-\frac{i}{2} \int d\xi \sigma(x_\perp)} \right\} \times \frac{\partial}{\partial y_\perp} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x_\perp} \mathcal{K}(y_+, y_\perp = 0; y_+, x_\perp | k_+)$$

$$+ \int dy_+ dx_\perp e^{-i x_\perp \cdot k_\perp} 2 \frac{k_\perp}{k_+^2} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial y_\perp} \mathcal{K}(y_+, y_\perp = 0; L_+, y_\perp | k_+).$$ \hfill (6)

Here, $\mathcal{K}$ denotes the two-dimensional path-integral

$$\mathcal{K}(x_+, x_\perp; y_+, y_\perp | k_+) = \int_{r_\perp (y_+)=y_\perp}^{r_\perp (x_+)=x_\perp} \mathcal{D}r_\perp (\xi)$$

$$\times \exp \left\{ \int_{r_+, x_+}^{r_+, y_+} d\xi \left[ \frac{i k_\perp}{2} \left( \frac{dr_\perp}{d\xi} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{2} n(\xi) \sigma(r_\perp) \right] \right\}. \hfill (7)$$

This results from the fact that one has to average over all medium configurations since for the calculation, only a frozen configuration profile was taken into account. The medium dependence of the spectrum comes from the factor $n(\xi) \sigma(r_\perp)$. The density of scattering centers is given by $n(\xi)$ and their space configuration and strength is contained in the dipole cross section,

$$\sigma(r_\perp) = 2 \int \frac{d\mathbf{q}_\perp}{(2\pi)^2} |a_0(\mathbf{q}_\perp)|^2 \left( 1 - e^{-i \mathbf{q}_\perp \cdot \mathbf{r}_\perp} \right), \hfill (8)$$

with $a_0(\mathbf{q}_\perp)$ the scattering potential corresponding to one scattering center, usually taken in the form of a static Debye screened potential [35].

### 2.2 Hard limit: $x \to 1$

We will now to parallel the derivation in the previous section but in the limit $x \to 1$. This means that the kinematics of the process is now constrained by

$$|\mathbf{q}_\perp| \ll q_+ \ll k_+, p_+. \hfill (9)$$

We work in the high-energy limit, which means that terms proportional to $p_{i\perp}$, $\mathbf{q}_\perp$ or $\mathbf{k}_\perp$ are neglected in the numerator of the propagators [26,27]. As for the denominators, the propagators coming from the initial quark and from the gluon will be simplified to

$$\frac{i \mathbf{p}_i}{p_i^2 + i\varepsilon} \sim \frac{i \mathbf{p}_i}{2p_i^+ p_i^- + i\varepsilon}, \hfill (10)$$

$^3$Full explanations of the variables in this equation can be found in [26,27].
A matrix reads

$$\Theta$$ is the step function. Thus equation (12) can be reduced to

Starting by one scattering with the medium (diagram represented in figure 3), the soft gluon emission cannot be applied whereas for the final quark, the term proportional to $q \equiv 1$ much softer than the other two, the contribution from $q$ in the denominator must be taken into account to allow some motion in the transverse plane.

Figure 3: Radiation diagram for gluon emission outside the medium in the one-scattering case. $p, p_1, k, q$ denote the 4-momenta, $x_1$ the position of the scattering center, and $A, A_1, A'$ the color indices in the fundamental representation, while $a, b$ denotes the color index in the adjoint.

whereas for the final quark, the term proportional to $q^2$ is kept in the denominator:

$$\frac{i g_s}{q^2 + i \varepsilon} \simeq \frac{i g_s}{2 q_{i+} q_{i-} - q^2_{i\perp} + i \varepsilon}.$$  

By doing this we are assuming that the most energetic partons (the initial quark and the gluon) will acquire only a color phase by crossing the medium. Since the final quark is much softer than the other two, the contribution from $q_{i\perp}$ in the denominator must be taken into account to allow some motion in the transverse plane.

First, we will compute the contribution where the gluon is emitted outside the medium. Starting by one scattering with the medium (diagram represented in figure 3), the $T$-matrix reads

$$T^q_1 = \int \frac{dp}{(2\pi)^4} \int \frac{dp_1}{(2\pi)^4} e^{i x_1 \cdot (p_1 - p)} \bar{u}(q) i g \epsilon_{A_1 A} \epsilon^{*} \frac{i q_{1+}}{p_{1+}^2 + i \varepsilon} - i g \epsilon_{A_1 A}(x_{1+}, x_{1\perp}) \frac{i q_{1\perp}}{p_{1\perp}^2 + i \varepsilon} M_H(p),$$

with $A \equiv A^b T^b$. For the simplification of the Dirac structure, the approximations used in the soft gluon emission cannot be applied.[4] As for the integrals, the only non-trivial ones are the ones related with the propagators:

$$\int \frac{dp_{i-}}{2\pi} e^{-ip_{i-}(x_{i+1})_+ - x_{i+}} \frac{i}{p_{i-} - (-i \varepsilon)} = \Theta(x_{i+1})_+ - x_{i+},$$

where $\Theta$ is the step function. Thus equation (12) can be reduced to

$$T^q_1 = -g T^q_{A_1 A} \frac{(q + k)_+}{2(q \cdot k)} \int dx_{1\perp} [i g(A_{-}) A_1 A(x_{1+}, 0_{\perp})] \Theta(x_{1+}) \bar{u}(q) \epsilon^{*} \gamma_{-} M_H(k + q).$$

Generalizing to $n$ scatterings, one can check that this structure iterates. Summing over all scattering centers an exponential series is found and the $T$-matrix for a gluon emitted outside the medium can be written as follows:

$$T^q_n = -g T^q_{A_1 A} \frac{(q + k)_+}{2(q \cdot k)} W A_1 A(x_{0+}, L_{\perp}; 0_{\perp}) \bar{u}(q) \epsilon^{*} \gamma_{-} M_H(k + q).$$

[4] In the case $x \rightarrow 0$, $q \simeq p$, and thus the following simplification was used: $\bar{u}(q) \epsilon^{*} p_{1+} \simeq \bar{u}(q) \epsilon^{*} q \simeq 2q \cdot \epsilon^{*} \simeq 2q_{\perp} \epsilon_{\perp}$, where $\epsilon = (\epsilon_{+}, \epsilon_{-}, \epsilon_{\perp})$ is the gluon polarization. Now, for $x \rightarrow 1$, the momenta relation has changed and the Dirac equation can no longer be used. Besides, we have to keep $\epsilon^{*}$ unevvaluated since we do not know a priori which component will be dominant as $k_{\perp}$ is larger than in the previous case. This means that the Dirac structure can only be reduced to $\bar{u}(q) \epsilon^{*} (\hat{q} + \hat{k}) A_{A_1 A} \Phi M_H(p) = 2(q + k)_{\perp} (A_{-}) A_1 A p_{\perp} \bar{u}(q) \epsilon^{*} \gamma_{-} M_H(p)$ (see appendix A for the relations between the $\gamma$ matrices).
where $k$ the medium (see figure 4). For one scattering, Figure 4: Radiation diagram for gluon emission inside the medium for the limiting case $x \to 1$. The meaning of the variables and indices is analogous to that in figure 3.

We can repeat the same procedure for the process in which the radiation vertex is inside the medium (see figure 3). For one scattering,

$$\mathcal{M}_1 = \int \frac{d^4p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{d^4q_1}{(2\pi)^4} \int \frac{d^4k_1}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{d^4q}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{d^4x_1}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{d^4x_1}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{d^4y_1}{(2\pi)^4} e^{ix_1 \cdot (p_1 - q)} e^{ix_1 \cdot (q - q)} e^{iy_1 \cdot (k_1 - k_1)} e^{iy(q_1 + k_1 - p_1)}$$

$$\times \bar{u}(q) i g A_{\mu_1}(x_1^+, x_1^+) \gamma_{\mu_1} \frac{i q_{1}^\mu}{q_{1}^2 + i\varepsilon} i g A_{\mu_1} A_1(x_1^+, x_1^+) \frac{i q_{1}^\mu}{q_{1}^2 + i\varepsilon} M_1(p_1)$$

$$\times \epsilon_\mu^a(k) g f^{a\mu_1 \nu}(k, 1, 0) A_\nu^b(y_1^+, y_1^+) \frac{-i g_{\mu_1}^a}{k_1^2 + i\varepsilon} ,$$

$$(16)$$

The gluon vertex together with the metric from the propagator and the polarization vector can be simplified using $k_{1+} = k_+$, and so, the Dirac structure takes the form:

$$\bar{u}(q) A_1^a_p g_1 f^a(k) p_1^\mu \gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu$$

$$(17)$$

where

$$(a) = \gamma_- p_+ A_1 p_+ \gamma_- = p_+ A_1 p_+ \gamma_+ \gamma_- = 2p_1 A_1 p_+ \gamma_- ,$$

$$(b) = 2q_1 A_1^\dagger \bar{u}(q) - \bar{u}(q) q_1 A_1 .$$

$$(18)$$

$$(19)$$

In this last simplification, we are keeping only the dominant term of the Dirac equation since $q_{1+} = q_+$. But we must not forget that the $q_\perp$ coming from the spinor $\bar{u}(q)$ is actually $q_\perp \neq q_\perp$. This means that in the squared modulus, the transverse momentum that appears from this $\mathcal{M}$-matrix corresponds to an inner momentum. The same is applied to the gluon transverse momentum coming from the gluon polarization vector, $k_\perp = -q_1 \perp$.

Using the properties listed in appendix $A$ and

$$\sqrt{q_+} \frac{d^2 q_\perp}{(2\pi)^2} e^{-i q_\perp \cdot (x_{(i+)} - x_{(i)})} \Theta(x_{(i+)} - x_{(i)}) G_0(x_{(i+)} - x_{(i)}, x_{(i+)} - x_{(i+)} | q_+)$$

$$(20)$$

where $V^{\alpha \beta}(k_1, k_2, k_3) = g^{\alpha \beta}(k_1 - k_2)^\alpha + g^{\alpha \beta}(k_2 - k_3)^\alpha + g^{\alpha \beta}(k_3 - k_2)^\alpha$. 
\[ G_0(x_{i+}, x_{i\perp}; x_{(i+)_+}, x_{(i+)_\perp} | q_+ = \frac{q_+}{2\pi i(x_{(i+)_+} - x_{i+})} \exp \left\{ \frac{ip_+(x_{(i+)_+} - x_i)_\perp}{2(x_{(i+)_+} - x_i)_+} \right\} \]

\[ = \int_{r_{\perp}(x_i+)=x_{i\perp}}^{r_{\perp}(x_{(i+)_+})=x_{(i+)_\perp}} \mathcal{D}r_{\perp}(\xi) \exp \left\{ \frac{iq_+}{2} \int_{x_i+}^{x_{(i+)_+}} d\xi \left( \frac{d\mathcal{A}}{d\xi} \right)^2 \right\} \]

is the Green’s function of a free particle that propagates in the transverse plane from \( x_{i\perp} \) at (light-cone) time \( x_{i+} \) to \( x_{(i+)_\perp} \) at time \( x_{(i+)_+} \), we get for the \( T \)-matrix for a gluon emitted inside the medium

\[
\mathcal{J}_g = \frac{1}{2} \int dy_+ dx_\perp e^{-iq_\perp \cdot x_\perp} G_{A_1^- A_1^+}(y_+, y_\perp = 0_\perp; L_+, x_\perp | q_+) i g T^{a_1}_{A_1^- A_1^+} \]

\[
\times \bar{W}_{A_1 A}(x_{0+}, y_+; 0_\perp) W_{aa_1}(y^+, L^+; 0_\perp) \bar{u}(q) \gamma^\mu (k) \gamma^\nu M_h(q + k),
\]

where the use of uppercase (lowercase) color indices in the Wilson lines indicate that they are to be taken in the fundamental (adjoint) as they correspond to the rescattering of a quark (gluon).

The total \( T \)-matrix, \( \mathcal{J}_{tot} \), is the sum of both contributions (equations (15) and (22)). The spectrum is computed as the inelastic cross-section over the elastic cross-section (see the elastic process in figure 5). Thus

\[
\langle |M_{tot}|^2 \rangle = \frac{\langle |\mathcal{J}_{tot}|^2 \rangle}{\langle |\mathcal{J}_{el}|^2 \rangle} = \langle |M_q^2| \rangle + \langle |M_q^2| \rangle + 2 \text{Re} \left\{ \frac{\langle M_g M_q^\dagger \rangle}{\langle M_g M_q^\dagger \rangle} \right\},
\]

where

\[
\mathcal{J}_{el} = \bar{u}(p) M_h(p) \Rightarrow |\mathcal{J}_{el}|^2 = \sqrt{2p_+ |M_h(p)|^2}.
\]

As a consistency check we are able to recover the vacuum contribution in the limit of \( x \to 1 \) from the quark amplitude,

\[
\langle |M_q^2| \rangle = \frac{2g^2 C_F}{Q^2} x(1 - x) \left\{ 1 + (1 - x)^2 \right\} \]

\[
\Rightarrow x \frac{dI}{dxdk_{\perp}} \bigg|_{x \to 1} \approx \frac{C_F \alpha_s}{2\pi^2} \left( \frac{1}{k_{\perp}^2} \right) \left( \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi^2} \right) \gamma_{g\rightarrow q}(x \to 1)
\]

with \( k_{\perp} = -q_{\perp} \) and the vacuum splitting function \[39, 40\]

\[
P^{vac}_{g\rightarrow q}(x) = C_F \left[ \frac{1 + (1 - x)^2}{x} \right] \xrightarrow{x \to 1} C_F.
\]

As for the other two terms in equation (23) (the medium contribution), the Dirac and color algebra are still to be simplified. They can be simplified using the polarization sum (with \( \eta = (0, 1, 0_\perp) \))

\[
\sum_\lambda \varepsilon^*_{\mu}(k, \lambda) \varepsilon_{\nu}(k, \lambda) = -g_{\mu\nu} + \frac{k_{\mu} \eta_{\nu} + k_{\nu} \eta_{\mu}}{k \cdot \eta}
\]

Figure 5: Elastic process.
and the relation between the Dirac spinors
\[ \sum_s u(q, s) \alpha \bar{u}(q, s) \beta = q_{\alpha \beta} + m_{\alpha \beta}. \]  

(29)

Using these two relations, we will end up with the trace of $\gamma$-matrices that are easily computed. For the color algebra, one can reduce all the traces to the fundamental representation using \[41\]
\[ W_{ab}(x_\perp) = 2 \text{Tr} \left[ T^a W^F(x_\perp) T^b W^{F\dagger}(x_\perp) \right] \]

(30)
to simplify the expression.

Putting all the kinematics in terms of the initial energy $p_+$ and the fraction of momentum carried away by the gluon, $x$, the medium amplitude can be written as:
\[
\langle |M_{\text{med}}|^2 \rangle = \langle |M_{\text{med}}|^2 \rangle + 2 \text{Re} \langle M_{\text{med}} \rangle \frac{g^2 C_F}{p_+ \frac{1}{2}} \left[ \frac{1}{x} \int dy_+ dy_+ dx_\perp d\xi e^{-i q_\perp \cdot x_\perp} \right] \\
\times \frac{1}{N} \frac{\partial}{\partial y_\perp} \text{Tr} \left\{ G(y_+, y_\perp = 0_\perp; \bar{y}_+, z_\perp | q_+) W^\dagger(y_+, \bar{y}_+; 0_\perp) \right\}_F \\
\times \frac{1}{N} \frac{\partial}{\partial y_\perp} \text{Tr} \left\{ G^i(y_+, \bar{y}_\perp = 0_\perp; L_+, x_\perp | q_+) G(y_+, z_\perp; L_+; x_\perp | q_+) \right\}_F \\
+ \frac{2 q_\perp}{q_\perp} \frac{\partial}{\partial y_\perp} \text{Tr} \left\{ G(y_+, y_\perp = 0_\perp; \bar{y}_+, L_+; x_\perp ) W^\dagger(y_+, \bar{y}_+; 0_\perp) \right\}_F, \\
\]

(31)

where the internal momenta were substituted by
\[ q_{\perp} G_0(y_+, y_\perp = 0_\perp; x_\perp^+; x_\perp | q_+) = \frac{\partial}{\partial y_\perp} G_0(y_+, y_\perp = 0_\perp; x_\perp^+; x_\perp | q_+). \]

(32)

Making the medium averages whose results can be taken from \[42\], the medium amplitude for one gluon emission in the limit $x \to 1$ is,
\[
\langle |M_{\text{med}}|^2 \rangle = \frac{g^2}{p_+} P_{y-q}(x) \text{Re} \left\{ \frac{1}{(1 - x) p_+} \int dy_+ dy_+ dx_\perp e^{-i q_\perp \cdot x_\perp} e^{-i x_\perp \cdot x_\perp} \right\} \frac{C_F}{2} \frac{L^+}{2} \int d\xi \left( y_+, y_\perp = 0_\perp; \bar{y}_+, x_\perp | q_+ \right) \\
\times \frac{\partial}{\partial x_\perp} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial y_\perp} \left( y_+, y_\perp = 0_\perp; \bar{y}_+, x_\perp | q_+ \right) \\
+ \frac{2 q_\perp}{q_\perp} \int dy_+ dy_+ dx_\perp e^{-i q_\perp \cdot x_\perp} \frac{\partial}{\partial y_\perp} \left( y_+, y_\perp = 0_\perp; L_+, x_\perp | q_+ \right). \\
\]

(33)

Although this expression was derived in the limiting case when $x \to 1$, we end up with an expression that depends explicitly on the fraction of energy carried by the emitted gluon. The result that we found for the medium amplitude is the exact vacuum splitting function, that appears as an overall pre-factor, corrected by two terms that depend on the medium parameters. Also, we have an explicit dependency with the initial energy that did not appear in the limit of $x \to 0$. Moreover, if in this expression we take this limit,
x → 0, exchange the momenta of the path integral, q_+ by k_+, exchange the transverse momenta q_⊥ by k_⊥, and take the color representation in the adjoint one, we recover the previous results derived in the limit x → 0 (see ref. [27]). This indicates that it is possible to generalize this expression to include both limiting cases of the single gluon emission spectrum inside a medium. We will see a possible generalization in the next section.

3 Multiple soft scattering approximation

Being the general analytical solution of the path-integral from equation (33) unknown, an approximation scheme must be used. One of the possible choices is the dipole approximation. This is based in the observation that the Yukawa potential a_0 from the dipole cross section (eq. (8)) has a leading quadratic dependency for small transverse distances |r_⊥|. This allows to write the dipole cross section to logarithmic accuracy as [13,15]

\[
\mathcal{K}(y_+, y_⊥) = \mathcal{K}_{osc}(y_+, y_⊥) = \mathcal{K}_{osc}(y_+; y_⊥; x_⊥|q_+) = \frac{A_1}{\pi^2} \exp \left[ i A_1 B_1 (x_⊥^2 + y_⊥^2) - 2iA_1 x_⊥ \cdot y_⊥ \right],
\]

where \( \mathcal{K}(\xi) \) is the transport coefficient which characterizes the transverse momentum squared \( \mu^2 \), transferred from the medium to the projectile per mean free path, \( \lambda \). This is the main parameter of this approximation and encodes all the dynamical properties of the medium. Generally, this parameter is time-dependent since the medium is expanding but, for a static medium, it can be written as \( \hat{q} = \mu^2 / \lambda \).

In this paper, we study only the case of a static medium, since the results can be easily generalized to an expanding medium. In this case, the path-integral becomes that of a two-dimensional harmonic oscillator [15],

\[
\mathcal{K}(y_+, y_⊥) = \mathcal{K}_{osc}(y_+, y_⊥) = \mathcal{K}_{osc}(y_+; y_⊥; x_⊥|q_+)
\]

\[
= \frac{A_1}{\pi^2} \exp \left[ i A_1 B_1 (x_⊥^2 + y_⊥^2) - 2iA_1 x_⊥ \cdot y_⊥ \right],
\]

\[
A_1 = \frac{q_+ \Omega}{2 \sin \left( \Omega (\bar{y}_+ - y_+) \right)}, \quad B_1 = \cos \left[ \Omega (\bar{y}_+ - y_+) \right], \quad \Omega = \frac{1 - i}{2} \sqrt{\frac{q_F}{q_+}},
\]

with imaginary frequency \( \Omega \).

Note the subscript \( F \) in the medium transport parameter to distinguish it from the usual transport parameter that is obtained from the medium averages in the adjoint representation,

\[
\frac{1}{N^2 - 1} \text{Tr} \left( W^A(x_\perp) W^{\dagger A}(y_\perp) \right) = \exp \left\{ - \frac{C_A}{2} \int dx_+ \sigma(x_\perp - y_\perp) n(x_+) \right\}
\]

compared to the fundamental that is our case,

\[
\frac{1}{N} \text{Tr} \left( W(x_\perp) W^{\dagger}(y_\perp) \right) = \exp \left\{ - \frac{C_F}{2} \int dx_+ \sigma(x_\perp - y_\perp) n(x_+) \right\}.
\]

6 A comparison of the results for the soft gluon spectrum obtained using different analytical approximations and exact numerical solutions for the path integral, can be found in [43].

7 The case of an expanding medium is just a generalization of equations (35) and (36) (see refs. [27,44]).
The two medium parameters are related by

\[ \hat{q}_F = \frac{C_F}{C_A} \hat{q}. \]  

(39)

Substituting expressions (35) and (36) in (33), one obtains the medium spectrum within the dipole approximation for the limiting case \( x \to 1 \):

\[ q_+ \frac{dI}{dq_+} = \frac{\langle M_{med} \rangle}{4(2\pi)^2} = \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} p_{g+q}(x)(I_1 + I_2), \]  

(40)

with

\[ I_1 = \frac{1}{x(1-x)p_+^2} \text{Re} \int dq_+ d\hat{q}_+ dx_+ e^{-i\hat{q}_+ \cdot x_+} e^{-\frac{q_+^2}{4\pi} \int_{L+} -d\zeta n(\zeta)} \]  

(41)

representing the gluon term \( \langle |M_g|^2 \rangle \) and

\[ I_2 = \frac{2}{p_+^2} \left( \int dq_+ dx_+ e^{-i\hat{q}_+ \cdot x_+} \frac{\partial}{\partial y_+} K(y_+, y_+ = 0; L_+, x_+ | q_+) \right) \]  

(42)

the interference term. The variables \( A_1, B_1 \) and \( \Omega \) are the same as in equation (36), while \( A_2, B_2 \) and \( D \) read

\[ A_2 = \frac{q_+ \Omega}{2 \sin[\Omega(L_+ + y_+) + \Omega(L_+ - y_+)]} , \quad B_1 = \cos[\Omega(L_+ - y_+)] , \quad D = \frac{1}{4}(L_+ - \hat{q}_+) \hat{q}_F. \]  

(43)

### 3.1 Interpolation between the hard \((x \to 1)\) and soft \((x \to 0)\) gluon emission

To provide a heuristic interpolation between both limits, we should decide which variables we want for analyzing the spectrum since we have available \( q_+ \), \( p_+ \) and \( x \), but they are constrained by the relation \( q_+ = (1-x)p_+ \). The most direct single inclusive spectrum that we could compute from expression (33), should be the one related to the final quark, as previously derived. But since we want to find an interpolation function that also describes the single inclusive spectrum for the gluon, a good observable is the energy loss, independent of which parton in the splitting carries a larger fraction of the initial energy. Thus, if we substitute

\[ q_+ = (1-x)p_+ \to x(1-x)p_+ \equiv E_+, \]  

(44)
when $x \to 0$, $E_+ \to x p_+ = k_+$ and, when $x \to 1$, $E_+ \to (1-x)p_+ = q_+$. This means that

$$q_+ \frac{dI}{dq_+ dq_{\perp}^2} \to x(1-x)p_+ \frac{dI}{d[x(1-x)p_+] dq_{\perp}^2} \to k_+ \frac{dI}{dk_+ dq_{\perp}^2} \text{ for } x \to 0.$$  

$$\to q_+ \frac{dI}{dq_+ dq_{\perp}^2} \text{ for } x \to 1. \tag{45}$$

The transverse momenta are constrained by

$$q_{\perp}^2 \leq 2x^2(1-x)^2 p_+^2. \tag{46}$$

As for the medium parameter, $\hat{q}_F$, we can substitute it by $\left[14, 21\right]$

$$\hat{q} = x\hat{q}_F + (1-x)\hat{q}_A = \frac{x C_F + (1-x) C_A}{C_A} \hat{q}_A. \tag{47}$$

With all these considerations, we are able to describe both limits within the considered approximations and recover the results that were derived in this manuscript and in $[27]$. So, applying the above formulas to equation (40) we get

$$E_+ \frac{dI^{med}}{dE_+ dq_{\perp}^2} = \frac{\alpha_s C_F}{4\pi} x(1-x) P_{g-q}(x) (I_1 + I_2) \tag{48}$$

with

$$I_1 = \frac{1}{E_+^2} \Re \int dy_+ d\bar{y}_+ d\mathbf{x}_\perp e^{-i\mathbf{q}_\perp \cdot \mathbf{x}_\perp} e^{-\frac{i}{2} \int_{y_+}^{L_+} dq_+ \frac{\partial}{\partial y_+} \mathcal{K}(y_+, \mathbf{y}_\perp = \mathbf{0}_\perp; \bar{y}_+ \mathbf{x}_\perp | E_+)$$

$$\times \left[ \frac{-2A_2^2 D}{(D - i A_1 B_1)^2} + \frac{i A_2^2 B_1}{2(D - i A_1 B_1)^3} \mathbf{q}_\perp^2 \right] \exp \left[ -\frac{\mathbf{q}_\perp^2}{4(D - i A_1 B_1)} \right] \right], \tag{49}$$

and

$$I_2 = \frac{2}{E_+^2 \mathbf{q}_\perp^2} \int dy_+ d\mathbf{x}_\perp e^{-i\mathbf{q}_\perp \cdot \mathbf{x}_\perp} \frac{\partial}{\partial y_+} \mathcal{K}(y_+, \mathbf{y}_\perp = \mathbf{0}_\perp; L_+, \mathbf{x}_\perp | E_+)$$

$$= \frac{2}{E_+^2} \Re \left\{ \int_0^{L_+} dy_+ \exp \left[ -i \frac{\mathbf{q}_\perp^2}{4A_2 B_2} \right] \right\}. \tag{50}$$

The variables $A_1$, $A_2$, $B_1$, $B_2$, $\Omega$ and $D$ are the same as in equation (43) but with the substitutions (44) and (47):

$$A_1 = \frac{E_+ \Omega}{2 \sin \left[ \Omega (\bar{y}_+ - y_+) \right]} \quad B_1 = \cos \left[ \Omega (\bar{y}_+ - y_+) \right] \quad \Omega = \frac{1 - i}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\hat{q}}{E_+}}$$

$$A_2 = \frac{E_+ \Omega}{2 \sin \left[ \Omega (L_+ - y_+) \right]} \quad B_1 = \cos \left[ \Omega (L_+ - y_+) \right] \quad D = \frac{1}{4} (L_+ - \bar{y}_+) \hat{q}. \tag{51}$$

Note that while for either $x \to 0$ or $x \to 1$, the meaning of $\mathbf{q}_\perp$ in Eq. (45) is clear as the transverse momentum of the emitted soft gluon (where $\mathbf{q}_\perp = -k_\perp$) or quark respectively, the interpretation for intermediate $x$ is far more involved. Actually, such kinematical situation requires the computation of a double inclusive cross section in which the Brownian motion of both outgoing partons is considered. We leave this computation for future studies.
4 Numerical Results

The results for the double-differential medium-induced gluon radiation spectrum for a quark traversing a static medium in the limit of hard gluon emission are presented in figure 6. The results are plotted as functions of the following dimensionless variables (see [24, 25] for the corresponding variables in the case of soft gluon emissions):

\[
\omega_c^+ = \frac{1}{2} q_A L_+^2, \quad \frac{p_+}{\omega_c^+} = \frac{2p_+}{q_A L_+^2}, \quad \kappa^2 = \frac{q_\perp^2}{q_A L_+}, \quad x.
\]  

(52)

The left plots correspond to the double differential spectrum. By integrating out \( q_\perp \), we obtain the right-handed ones (the analytical expressions for this integration in the limit \( \omega_c L_+ \to \infty \) are written in appendix B). Figure 6(a) presents the results for small medium parameters and figure 6(b) for larger ones.

The two asymptotic behaviors that one expects are confirmed: when the energy or the transverse momentum of the emitted parton increase, the spectrum goes to zero. Another feature of the spectrum is the suppression in the low \( \kappa^2 \) region. For values \( p_+/\omega_c \simeq 1 \) for every value of \( x \), the spectrum becomes negative - the total radiation is smaller than in vacuum -, which does not happens when \( p_+/\omega_c^+ \) is smaller. For the case of the soft gluon emission, this suppression can be understood in terms of the formation time of the outgoing gluon:

\[
t_{form}^g \simeq \frac{2k_+}{q_\perp^2}.
\]  

(53)

In the present case, we can generalize this concept to include both final particles and define the formation time of the outgoing parton as

\[
t_{form} \simeq \frac{2E_+}{q_\perp^2}.
\]  

(54)

In the regime where \( t_{form} \gg L_+ \), the function becomes highly oscillatory and we enter in the regime of the Landau-Pomeranchuk-Migdal (LPM) effect [15][45]. As a result, a suppression of the spectrum due to the inefficiency of exchanging information with the medium is observed. In the upper left plot this behavior is less striking since we increase the medium length by two orders of magnitude.

5 Conclusions and Outlook

Summarizing, we have computed the medium-induced gluon radiation spectrum in the limit of a hard emission. Making use of the path-integral formalism to describe the propagation of high-energy particles inside a medium in terms of Wilson lines and Green’s functions, we found a finite-energy correction to the double differential spectrum of the final quark. Since we are able to recover the soft gluon emission limit with the expression derived in this manuscript, we provide a generalization that is able to describe both limiting cases. The result for this interpolation function (shown in equation (48) for the multiple soft scattering approximation) contains, as in the case of soft gluon emissions, two contributions for the medium spectrum: the gluon term, which is suppressed by the initial momenta, and the interference term. The spectrum vanishes, as expected, in the kinematical limit.

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Figure 6: Evolution of the medium-induced gluon radiation spectrum \( \frac{dE}{dI} \) of a quark in a static medium for different values of \( x \) and \( p_+/\omega_c^+ \). The left plots correspond to the double differential spectrum (two different values of \( p_+/\omega_c^+ \) in (a) and (b)) and the right ones are the same integrated over \( q_L \) (two different values of \( \omega_c^+ L_+ \) in (a) and (b)).
Applying the multiple soft scattering approximation, we obtained explicit expressions for the case of a static medium. The integrals in the longitudinal variables were performed numerically and the main results were shown in figure 6. The conclusions are a clear suppression of the spectrum for small values of the parton transverse momentum, as predicted by the LPM effect. Also, the density of the medium constrains strongly the possible energy range of radiation that is emitted.

Finite-energy corrections are a key ingredient for the quantitative description of the energy loss processes in whatever used formalism. They are automatically included in Monte Carlo approaches, though until now in a heuristic form, see e.g. [28–30] for a discussion of its implementation and impact in a Monte Carlo framework. From this work we found a generalization that is still half-way of its true form: although we have an expression that is valid for all fraction of energies of the emitted parton, there is still one parton (the hardest one) that has its movement constrained in the transverse plane (this one is always described by a Wilson line). The outlook of this work is the implementation of these corrections in a Monte Carlo code in order to study its phenomenological consequences since now we are able to access the intermediate region of \( x \), and, on the other hand, the full generalization of this result through allowing both final particles to have a Brownian motion in the transverse plane.

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A Gamma matrices

In the light-cone the gamma matrices read

\[ \gamma^+ = \frac{\gamma^0 + \gamma^3}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \sigma^3 \\ -\sigma^3 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \]

\[ \gamma^- = \frac{\gamma^0 - \gamma^3}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -\sigma^3 \\ \sigma^3 & -1 \end{pmatrix}, \]

\[ \gamma^1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma^1 \\ -\sigma^1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \]

\[ \gamma^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma^2 \\ -\sigma^2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \]  

They obey to the following relations:

\[ (\gamma^+)\dagger = \gamma^-, \quad \gamma_\bot \cdot \gamma_\bot = -2, \quad \gamma^+\gamma^-\gamma^+ = 2\gamma^+, \quad \gamma_\bot\gamma^+\gamma_\bot = 2\gamma^+, \]

\[ (\gamma^-)\dagger = \gamma^+, \quad \gamma^+\gamma^- = 0, \quad \gamma^-\gamma^+\gamma^- = 2\gamma^- , \quad \gamma^+\gamma_\bot\gamma^+ = 0, \]

\[ (\gamma_\bot)\dagger = -\gamma_\bot, \quad \gamma^-\gamma^- = 0, \quad \gamma_\bot\gamma^-\gamma_\bot = 2\gamma^- , \quad \gamma^-\gamma_\bot\gamma^- = 0. \]
B BDMPS limit

From expression (48), we are able to compute the BDMPS limit, taking the limit \( R = \omega c L_+ \to \infty \). This is equivalent to performing the integration in the transverse momentum taking into account an opening angle for the parton emission, \( \Theta, 0 < q_\perp < \chi E_+ \), where \( \chi = \sin \Theta \) and, then, take the limit \( \chi \to \infty \). Doing the integration one finds that

\[
E_+ \frac{d\Gamma^{med}}{dE_+} = \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} (1 - x) x P_{g \to q}(x)(I_1 + I_2),
\]

where

\[
I_1 = \frac{8A_1^2}{E_+^2} \left\{ -1 + \exp \left[ - \frac{(\chi E_+)^2}{4(D - iA_1 B_1)} \right] \left( 1 - \frac{iA_1 B_1 (\chi E_+)^2}{4(D - iA_1 B_1)^2} \right) \right\},
\]

\[
I_2 = \frac{8A_2}{B_2 E_+} \left\{ \exp \left[ - \frac{i(\chi E_+)^2}{4A_2 B_2} \right] - 1 \right\}
\]

and \( A_1, A_2, B_1, B_2, \Omega \) and \( D \) are defined in equation (51).

Taking the limit \( \chi \to \infty \), the previous equations can be reduced to

\[
\lim_{R \to \infty} I_1 = 2 \text{Re} \int_0^{L_+} dy_+ \frac{\Omega \cos(\Omega y_+)}{\sin(\Omega y_+)},
\]

\[
\lim_{R \to \infty} I_2 = -2 \text{Re} \int_0^{L_+} dy_+ \frac{\Omega}{\cos(\Omega y_+) \sin(\Omega y_+)}. \]

Both integrals are divergent but, when summing the two contributions, the integral over the remaining longitudinal coordinate is finite and the the result is given by:

\[
E_+ \frac{d\Gamma^{med}}{dE_+} = \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} x(1 - x) P_{g \to q}(x) \text{Re} \ln \left[ \cos(\Omega L_+) \right].
\]

This result agrees with the ones previously derived when doing the limit \( x \to 1 \) and \( x \to 0 \) respectively.

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