

We thank the referees very much for their careful consideration of the manuscript. We have made changes to address the comments, and we believe the manuscript is strengthened as a result of the referees' comments. We detail below the changes made to address the specific comments from the referees.

Referee 1:

1. "in the bulk of the string": revised to "on the string worldsheet" in the first instance and to "interior of the string" in the second
2.  $\tau$  formatting: corrected
3. "equation Eq.": fixed

Referee 2:

1. Please note that we claim that our *construction* is novel, which is true. We agree with the referee that our results follow closely those of [43], with the appropriate change that both the endpoint initial conditions and the motion of the endpoints *for all time* is now timelike.
2. Additional text was added in the body of the manuscript and in the Discussion to strengthen the connection with heavy ion phenomenology.
3. Paragraph added giving the details of the metric, including the functional form of  $f$ .
4. *Significant* quantity of text and equations (Eqs. 7-10) added to flesh out the derivation.
5. We added that  $v \approx 1$ . ( $v \approx 1$  is actually necessary for the assumption that the endpoints move at a near constant depth for a long time.)
6. Removed "can."
7. Yes.
8. We added text to define  $\lambda$  and  $E_0$ .
9. Typos fixed and suggestion taken.