Thermodynamical consistency of quasiparticle model at finite baryon density

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In this work, we revisit the thermodynamical self-consistency of the quasiparticle model with the finite baryon chemical potential adjusted to lattice QCD calculations. Here we investigate the possibility that the effective quasiparticle mass is also a function of its momentum k, in addition to temperature T and chemical potential μ . It is found that the thermodynamic consistency can be expressed in terms of an integrodifferential equation concerning k, T, and μ . We further discuss two special solutions, both can be viewed as a sufficient condition for the thermodynamical consistency, while expressed in terms of a particle differential equation. The first case is shown to be equivalent to those previously discussed by Peshier *et al.* The second one, obtained through an *ad hoc* assumption, is an intrinsically different solution where the particle mass is momentum dependent. These equations can be solved by using boundary condition determined by the lattice QCD data at vanishing baryon chemical potential. By numerical calculations, we show that both solutions, and in particular, those concerning finite baryon density. Possible implications are discussed.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The quasiparticle approach is part of the efforts to understand the physics of the quark-hadron transition characterized by a dramatic change in the number of degrees of freedom where nonperturbative effects are dominant. The model provides a reasonable, as well as phenomenological, description of the thermodynamic properties of quark-gluon plasma (QGP), which deviate significantly from those of an ideal gas of noninteracting quarks and gluons. The success of the quasiparticle picture thus strengthens the notion of quasiparticle ansatz. It may further open up new possibilities for the development of effective theories from a more fundamental viewpoint, concerning the underlying physics of QGP, which is nonperturbative in nature. Indeed, as indicated by lattice quantum chromodynamics (QCD) calculations, the QGP pressure and energy density deviate by about 15–20% from the Stefan-Boltzmann limit even at temperatures T > $3T_c$ [1]. On the other hand, the square of the speed of sound, c_s^2 , extracted from the lattice QCD, is smaller than that of an ideal gas of massless particles. In particular, it is found that as the temperature decreases while the system approaches the transition region, c_s^2 reaches down to a minimum and then increases again in accordance with the hadronic resonance gas (HRG) description of the system [2]. Since these thermodynamical properties may lead to observable consequences through their impact on the hydrodynamically expanding phase during the relativistic heavy ion collisions, they are, therefore, essential features in the study of the strongly interacting QGP matter. While the lattice QCD is an exact and yet numerical technique to obtain the equation of state (EoS), it is still challenging to study finite density QCD in large baryon density and low temperature regions. In addition, there are other attempts to investigate thermal properties of the QGP such as dimensional reduction [3-5], hard thermal loop (HTL) resummation scheme [6–12], Polyakov-loop model [13,14], as well as approaches in terms of hadronic degrees of freedom [15-17]. The subtlety among different approaches is how to appropriately tackle the nonperturbative regime of QCD, which, in particular, as the temperature decreases and approaches T_c , still cannot be accurately described to date.

Inspired by its counterparts in other fields of physics, the quasiparticle ansatz assumes that the strongly interacting matter consists of noninteracting quanta that carry the same quantum numbers of quarks and gluons. The strong interactions between the elementary degrees of freedom are incorporated through the medium-dependent quasiparticle mass. The quasiparticle approach was first introduced by

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Peshier *et al.* [18] for the description of gluon plasma, where the temperature-dependent particle mass was proposed. However, it was subsequently pointed out by Gorenstein and Yang [19] that thermodynamic quantities evaluated by using an ensemble average may not agree with those obtained by thermodynamic relations. The issue can be resolved by reformulating the thermodynamics of the quasiparticle model through the requirement of an exact cancellation between the additional contributions from the temperature-dependent particle mass and those from the bag constant. The latter is assumed to be temperature dependent and determined by the condition of thermodynamic consistency. Thereafter, the thermodynamical consistency were further explored by many other authors [20–26].

By appropriately addressing the question of gauge invariance, the effective mass of a particle can be defined either by the pole of the effective propagator or through the Debye screen mass extracted from the excitations at small momentum. The calculations using HTL approximation show that the gluon screen mass extracted from the dispersion relation for transverse gluons [27,28] are in accordance with the Debye mass obtained at the limit of small momentum [6,7,29]. Therefore, in practice, the specific forms of quasiparticle mass are taken as a function of temperature, chemical potential, as well as the running coupling constant that are usually inspired by the HTL results. As a further matter, the running coupling can be replaced by an effective coupling, $G^{2}(T, \mu)$, which, in turn, is determined by a flow equation [20,30-32]. This last is a partial differential equation, and its boundary condition can be chosen as the effective coupling at $\mu = 0$, adjusted to the lattice QCD data. It is shown that the thermodynamic properties obtained from lattice calculations, especially those for the nonvanishing chemical potential, are described remarkably well.

To guarantee the thermodynamic consistency, the following relation is to be satisfied:

$$\left. \frac{\partial \ln Q_G}{\partial m} \right|_{T,\mu} = 0,\tag{1}$$

where Q_G is the grand partition function. In the literature, it was required subsequently [19,20]

$$\frac{dB}{dm} = \left. \frac{\partial p(T, \mu, m)}{\partial m} \right|_{T, \mu}.$$
(2)

Here, the bag constant *B* is understood to be a function of the particle mass *m* only, and its temperature (and chemical potential) dependence is inherited implicitly from that of the quasiparticle mass $m = m(T, \mu)$. It is straightforward to show that Eq. (2) indeed implies to Eq. (1). However, if *B* explicitly depends on temperature, there will be an extra contribution to the thermodynamic quantities which is not accounted for by Eq. (2). By examining the right-hand side (r.h.s.) of Eq.(2), it turns out to be an explicit function of *T*, μ , and *m*. Therefore, the requirement that the r.h.s. of Eq. (2) is a function of temperature (and chemical potential) only through the quasiparticle mass furnishes a more stringent condition. In this work, we show that the above consideration leads to an integrodifferential equation, which is equivalent to the flow

equation introduced in Ref. [20] under certain circumstances. Moreover, we show that there are also other possibilities that accommodate the requirement for thermodynamical consistency.

The present work is organized as follows. In the next section, we review the question concerning thermodynamical consistency in the quasiparticle model. An integrodifferential equation for quasiparticle mass is derived. Two special solutions are discussed, both are expressed in terms of a particle differential equation, and can be solved by the method of characteristics. We show that the first case is precisely what was derived and investigated by Peshier et al. The second solution, on the other hand, is an intrinsically different one where particle mass is found to be a function of momentum. The numerical results are presented in Sec. III. By using the lattice QCD data at $\mu = 0$ as the boundary condition, we show that both solutions can reasonably reproduce the recent lattice QCD results. In particular, the results concerning finite baryon density are presented. The last section is devoted to discussions and concluding remarks.

II. THERMODYNAMIC CONSISTENCY FOR QUASIPARTICLE MODEL WITH TEMPERATURE- AND CHEMICAL-POTENTIAL-DEPENDENT MASS

In this section, the thermodynamic consistency for the quasiparticle model is revisited. Our discussions are based on the quasiparticle model proposed by Begun *et al.* [33]. An interesting aspect of the approach, as pointed out by the authors, is the existence of an additional free parameter. To be specific, it is shown that pressure, while following its traditional definition in statistical physics, is determined up to an extra free parameter.

Let us first write down the expressions for energy and particle number as they are formulated as an ensemble average as follows:

$$\langle E \rangle = \frac{\sum_{i} E_{i} \exp(-\alpha N_{i} - \beta E_{i})}{\sum_{i} \exp(-\alpha N_{i} - \beta E_{i})},$$

$$\langle N \rangle = \frac{\sum_{i} N_{i} \exp(-\alpha N_{i} - \beta E_{i})}{\sum_{i} \exp(-\alpha N_{i} - \beta E_{i})},$$
(3)

where the ensamble average is carried out among all possible microscopic states i of the system, and N_i and E_i are, respectively, the total number and total energy of the state in question. The above expression can be rewritten in terms of the grand partition function

$$Q_G = \langle \exp[-\alpha \hat{N} - \beta \hat{H}_{\text{eff}}] \rangle, \qquad (4)$$

where

$$\hat{H}_{\rm eff} = \hat{H}_{\rm id} + E_0 + E_1.$$
 (5)

Here \hat{H}_{id} is the Hamiltonian of the ideal gas of quasiparticles

$$\hat{H}_{id} = \sum_{j} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \omega(\mathbf{k}) a_{\mathbf{k},j}^{\dagger} a_{\mathbf{k},j}, \qquad (6)$$

where *j* corresponds to the internal degrees of freedom. Here E_0 is a temperature- and chemical-potential-dependent function associated with the bag constant *B* proposed by Gorenstein and Yang [19]. This term is used to cancel out the effects of the temperature (and chemical potential) dependence of the quasiparticle mass through Eq. (1), to be discussed further below. E_1 is the above-mentioned free parameter, which is proportional to the temperature. The E_1 term is singled out from E_0 owing to its peculiar nature. As shown below, it allows one to further adjust the value of the pressure for any given energy density [33].

The quasiparticle ansatz assumes that one may carry out the calculations in the momentum space where the Hamiltonian is diagonal. To be more specific, one makes the following substitutions for the ideal gas part:

$$\sum_{j} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \to \frac{gV}{(2\pi)^3} \int d\mathbf{k},\tag{7}$$

where g is the degeneracy factor. Now, thermodynamical quantities can also be expressed regarding the derivatives of the grand partition function. For instance, the energy density reads

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\langle E \rangle}{V} = -\frac{1}{V} \frac{\partial \ln Q_G}{\partial \beta} = \epsilon_{id} + \frac{E_0}{V} + \frac{E_1}{V} + \frac{1}{V} \left\langle \beta \frac{\partial E_1}{\partial \beta} \right\rangle$$
$$= \epsilon_{id} + B, \tag{8}$$

where

$$\epsilon_{\rm id} = \frac{g}{2\pi^2} \int_0^\infty \frac{k^2 dk \omega^*(k, T, \mu)}{\exp[(\omega^*(k, T, \mu) - \mu)/T] \mp 1} + \text{c.t.}, \quad (9)$$

with on-shell dispersion relation

$$w^*(k, T, \mu) = \sqrt{m(T, \mu)^2 + k^2},$$
 (10)

and $B = \lim_{V \to \infty} \frac{E_0}{V}$ is the bag constant and the counter term "c.t." indicates contributions from antiparticles obtained by the substitution $\mu \to -\mu$ in the foregoing term. Here, the contribution from the temperature dependence of quasiparticle mass has already been canceled out with the temperature dependence of E_0 . If the system has vanishing chemical potential $\mu = 0$, one has $B = B(\mu = 0, T) \equiv B(T)$ and $m = m(\mu = 0, T) \equiv m(T)$, in general, one can invert the second function to find T = T(m) and express *B* as a function of *m*. Thus the above requiement Eq. (1) regarding E_0 implies

$$\frac{dB}{dm} = -\frac{gm}{2\pi^2} \int_0^\infty \frac{k^2 dk}{\omega^*(k,T)} \frac{1}{\exp[(\omega^*(k,T))/T] \mp 1}.$$
 (11)

At finite baryon density, however, one is dealing with a bivariate function $B = B(\mu, T)$. Thus the above argument is not valid. In general, *B* may explicitly depend on *T* besides its dependence through *m*, but one still can write down

$$\frac{\partial B}{\partial T} = -\frac{g}{2\pi^2} \int_0^\infty \frac{k^2 dk}{\omega^*(k, T, \mu)} \frac{1}{\exp[(\omega^*(k, T, \mu) - \mu)/T] \mp 1} m \frac{\partial m}{\partial T} + \text{c.t.}$$
(12)

Furthermore, since E_1 is linear in $1/\beta$, one has $\langle \beta \frac{\partial E_1}{\partial \beta} \rangle = \beta \frac{\partial E_1}{\partial \beta} = -E_1$, thus the last equality of Eq. (8) is justified. Similarly, the pressure is interpreted as a "general force," which reads

$$p = \frac{1}{\beta} \frac{\partial \ln Q_G}{\partial V} = \frac{1}{\beta} \frac{\ln Q_G}{V} = p_{\rm id} - B - \frac{E_1}{V},\tag{13}$$

where

$$p_{\rm id} = \frac{\mp g}{2\pi^2} \int_0^\infty k^2 dk \ln\{1 \mp \exp[(\mu - \omega^*(k, T, \mu))/T]\} + {\rm c.t.}$$

= $\frac{g}{12\pi^2} \int_0^\infty \frac{k^3 dk}{\exp[(\omega^*(k, T, \mu) - \mu)/T] \mp 1} \frac{\partial \omega^*(k, T, \mu)}{\partial k} \Big|_{T,\mu} + {\rm c.t.}$ (14)

We note the presence of the term regarding E_1 in the resulting expression for the pressure, but not in that for the energy density.

The number density reads

$$n = \frac{\langle N \rangle}{V} = -\frac{1}{V} \frac{\partial \ln Q_G}{\partial \alpha} = n_{\rm id},\tag{15}$$

with

$$n_{\rm id} = \frac{g}{2\pi^2} \int_0^\infty \frac{k^2 dk}{\exp[(\omega^*(k, T, \mu) - \mu)/T] \mp 1} - \text{c.t.}$$
(16)

Again, the contribution from the chemical potential dependence of quasiparticle mass in the ideal gas term and that from E_0 term cancel out each other if B satisfies

$$\frac{\partial B}{\partial \mu} = -\frac{g}{2\pi^2} \int_0^\infty \frac{k^2 dk}{\omega^*(k, T, \mu)} \frac{1}{\exp[(\omega^*(k, T, \mu) - \mu)/T] \mp 1} m \frac{\partial m}{\partial \mu} + \text{c.t.}$$
(17)

We note that the resultant expressions for the thermodynamic quantities, namely, Eqs. (8), (13), and (15), are thermodynamically as well as statistically consistent. The reasons are twofold. First, the expressions for energy and

particle density are in accordance with the conventional definition regarding ensemble average,¹ while they can also been conveniently expressed in standard form as derivatives of the grand partition function, as emphasized by other authors [21,23]. Moreover, from the viewpoint of statistical physics, those ensemble averages are meaningful, only when one can match those quantities, term by term, to the first law of thermodynamics [34]. In this context, thermodynamical consistency is guaranteed. Subsequently, any other thermodynamical quantities can be then derived from a thermodynamic potential, which summarizes all the constitutive properties of a body that thermodynamics represents. Now, it is not difficult to see that the second requirement is indeed achieved by evaluating the total derivative of $q = \ln Q_G$, to be specific, one can readily verify that

$$dq = -\langle N \rangle d\alpha - \langle E \rangle d\beta - \beta p dV.$$
(18)

By comparing the above expression with the first law of thermodynamics, namely,

$$d\langle E \rangle = T dS - p dV + \mu d \langle N \rangle. \tag{19}$$

it is inferred that

$$\beta = \frac{1}{k_B T}, \quad \alpha = -\frac{\mu}{k_B T}, \quad q + \alpha N + \beta E = \frac{S}{k_B}.$$
 (20)

Since the first law of thermodynamics holds, it is natural to expect that all thermodynamical quantities defined through the above procedure automatically satisfy any thermodynamical relations, such as

$$\epsilon \equiv \frac{E}{V} = T \left. \frac{\partial p}{\partial T} \right|_{V,\mu} - p + \mu n, \tag{21}$$

which is frequently discussed in the literature.

As discussed above, for the case of finite density, B has to satisfied both Eqs. (12) and (17) simultaneously, which is not equivalent to Eq. (2). In fact, the symmetry of the second derivatives for Eqs. (12) and (17) implies the following integrodifferential equation:

$$\left\langle\!\!\left\langle m\frac{\partial m}{\partial T}\right\rangle\!\!\right\rangle_{-} = \left\langle\!\!\left\langle m\frac{\partial m}{\partial \mu}\right\rangle\!\!\right\rangle_{+},\tag{22}$$

where

$$\langle \langle O \rangle \rangle_{-} = \int_{0}^{\infty} k^{2} dk \left\{ \frac{\exp[(\omega^{*} - \mu)/T]}{(\exp[(\omega^{*} - \mu)/T] \mp 1)^{2}T} - \text{c.t.} \right\} O(k),$$

$$\langle \langle O \rangle \rangle_{+} = \int_{0}^{\infty} k^{2} dk \left\{ \frac{\exp[(\omega^{*} - \mu)/T](\omega^{*} - \mu)}{(\exp[(\omega^{*} - \mu)/T] \mp 1)^{2}T^{2}} + \text{c.t.} \right\} O(k).$$

(23)

For the most general cases, the particle mass is a function of momentum $m = m(k, T, \mu)$, and therefore *B* is actually a functional of *m* in addition to a function of *T* and μ , and derivatives in equations such as Eq. (2) should be understood as functional derivatives. In the present study, we assume for simplicity that for an antiparticle \bar{X} , $m_{\bar{X}}(k, T, -\mu) = m_X(k, T, \mu) \equiv m(k, T, \mu)$, and again, "c.t." indicates the counter term due to the contributions from antiparticles; they are obtained from the foregoing term by substituting $\mu \rightarrow -\mu$ and $X \rightarrow \bar{X}$. In what follows we will discuss two special solutions of Eq. (22).

A. Momentum-independent solution

Let us first consider the case where the quasiparticle mass is only a function of temperature and chemical potential, $m = m(T, \mu)$. Then both *m* and its derivatives can be moved out of the integrals with respect to *k*, and therefore, Eq.(22) gives

$$\frac{\partial m}{\partial T} \langle \langle 1 \rangle \rangle_{-} = \frac{\partial m}{\partial \mu} \langle \langle 1 \rangle \rangle_{+}, \qquad (24)$$

$$\frac{\partial m}{\partial T} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \left(\frac{\partial p_{\rm id}}{\partial m} \Big|_{T,\mu} \right) = \frac{\partial m}{\partial \mu} \frac{\partial}{\partial T} \left(\frac{\partial p_{\rm id}}{\partial m} \Big|_{T,\mu} \right), \quad (25)$$

when expressed in terms of p_{id} of Eq. (14). By summing both sides of the above equation to the Maxwell relation of the ideal gas

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \left(\left. \frac{\partial p_{\rm id}}{\partial T} \right|_{m,\mu} \right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial T} \left(\left. \frac{\partial p_{\rm id}}{\partial \mu} \right|_{m,T} \right),\tag{26}$$

and taking into account Eqs. (12) and (17), one recovers

$$\frac{\partial s}{\partial \mu} = \frac{\partial^2 p}{\partial T \partial \mu} = \frac{\partial^2 p}{\partial \mu \partial T} = \frac{\partial n}{\partial T}.$$
 (27)

This is a Maxwell relation, precisely Eq. (7) of Ref. [20], which was subsequently used to determine the flow equation for the running coupling constant. Alternatively, from our viewpoint, Eq. (24) is a condition to determine the particle mass $m(T, \mu)$. It is not difficult to see that Eq. (24) can be formally solved by using the method of characteristics. As shown in the Appendix, its solution consists of characteristic curves for given *m* satisfying

$$\frac{d\mu}{dT} = -\frac{\langle\!\langle 1 \rangle\!\rangle_+}{\langle\!\langle 1 \rangle\!\rangle_-}.$$

One may make use of the lattice data at zero chemical potential as the boundary condition. Then again, one may simply solve $m(T, \mu)$ by carrying out numerical integral from the $\mu = 0$ boundary onto the $T - \mu$ plane where $\mu \neq 0$.

B. Special momentum-dependent solution

In general, as the solution of Eq. (22), the quasiparticle mass is a function of k, T, and μ . For this case, we only discuss a special solution which possesses a rather simple form. It is obtained by assuming the integrands on the both sides are the same. In other words,

$$\left\{\frac{\exp[(\omega^* - \mu)/T]T}{(\exp[(\omega^* - \mu)/T] \mp 1)^2} - \text{c.t.}\right\}\frac{\partial m}{\partial T}$$
$$= \left\{\frac{\exp[(\omega^* - \mu)/T](\omega^* - \mu)}{(\exp[(\omega^* - \mu)/T] \mp 1)^2} + \text{c.t.}\right\}\frac{\partial m}{\partial \mu}.$$
 (28)

or

¹This can be seen by comparing the r.h.s. of Eqs. (8) and (15) against Eq. (3).

Since ω^* is involved in the above equation, the resultant particle mass is indeed a function of *k*. Then again, the above equation can be solved by using the method of characteristics, and its solution consists of characteristic curves for given ω^* .

In particular, if the contributions from antiparticles are insignificant, namely, $\mu \gg 1$, Eq. (28) can be further simplified to

$$\frac{\partial m}{\partial \mu} = \frac{T}{(\omega^*(k, T, \mu) - \mu)} \frac{\partial m}{\partial T},$$
(29)

which possesses the following analytic solution (see also the Appendix):

$$m = f\left(\frac{T\omega^*}{\omega^* - \mu}\right),\tag{30}$$

where $f(T) \equiv m(T, \mu = 0)$ is determined by the boundary condition.

III. NUMERICAL RESULTS

Now, we are in a position to present the numerical results and to compare them to the recent lattice data for $N_f = 2 + 1$ favor QCD system [35–39]. We first show the calculated thermodynamical quantities for the case of momentum-dependent quasiparticle mass. Here, the free parameters are the effective masses of gluons, of light as well as strange quarks as functions of temperature at zero chemical potential, and a constant related to E_1 . Once they are determined, one may evaluate all thermodynamical quantities such as energy density, pressure, and entropy density at zero as well as finite baryon density. In addition, we also calculate the trace anomaly, sound velocity, and the particle number susceptibility defined as

$$\chi_2^{ab} = \frac{T}{V} \frac{1}{T^2} \left. \frac{\partial^2 \ln Q_G(T, \mu_u, \mu_d, \mu_s)}{\partial \mu_a \partial \mu_b} \right|_{\mu_a = \mu_b = 0}.$$
 (31)

In particular, the relavant quantities χ_2^B and χ_2^L in the present model [35] read

$$\chi_2^B = \frac{1}{9} \Big[\chi_2^u + \chi_2^d + \chi_2^s + 2\chi_{11}^{us} + 2\chi_{11}^{ds} + 2\chi_{11}^{ud} \Big] = \frac{1}{9} \Big[2\chi_2^u + \chi_2^s \Big],$$
(32)

and

$$\chi_2^L = \frac{1}{9} \Big[\chi_2^u + \chi_2^d + 2\chi_{11}^{ud} \Big] = \frac{2}{9} \chi_2^u.$$
(33)

The *x*-axis of the plots are chosen to be T/T_c , where the value for the transition temperature $T_c = 0.15 \text{ GeV}$ is taken [36,38,40,41]. Then all these results are compared to those obtained by the lattice QCD calculations by Wuppertal-Budapest [35,36] as well as HotQCD collaborations [37–39].

The parameters of the present approach are determined as follows. First, the lattice data [36] on particle susceptibility of light χ_2^L quarks is used to determine the quasiparticle mass of light quarks at vanishing chemical potential. Subsequently, the quasiparticle mass of strange quark as a function of temperature is determined by the particle susceptibility regarding baryon chemical potential χ_2^B . Then the gluon mass is used to fit the energy density for $n_B = 0$. Also, to compare the results between Eqs. (24) and (28), we assume that the

quasiparticle mass is momentum independent at $\mu = 0$,² so that both equations are solved by using the same boundary condition. Finally, E_1 is tuned to further improve the pressure as a function of temperature at zero baryon density. The resultant particle masses at $\mu_q = 0$ are show in Fig. 1, the constant of integration for the bag constant is taken to be $B(T_c, \mu = 0) = 0.12 \times T_c^4$, and the value of E_1 is found to be $\beta E_1/V = 2.305 \times 10^{-4} \text{ GeV}^3$. The particle mass at finite

Eq. (28). We note that, in principle, it seems to be more reasonable to adjust the model parameters to the lattice data of χ_2^u and χ_2^s , instead of χ_2^L and χ_2^B . This is because the lattice results show that χ_2^B contains flavor correlations. However, since our quasiparticle model does not take into account the contributions from mixed cumulant terms, such as χ_{11}^{ud} in Eq. (33), it is found that, in practice, the proposed model calibration leads to a better fit to the existing lattice data.

chemical potential is subsequently evaluated according to

The resultant thermodynamic quantities are presented in Figs. 2 and 3. One observes that, overall, a reasonably good agreement is achieved, especially for quark number susceptibility, besides the energy density, entropy density, and pressure. It is also worth pointing out that in our present approach, we did not introduce any renormalization for the degeneracy factor, which is adopted as an additional free parameter by some of the quasiparticle approaches. The only discrepancies are observed for the quantities associated with the first and second derivatives of the grand partition function for the region where $T < T_c$. For instance, the pressure difference is related to the expansion in terms of μ/T . Therefore the deviation becomes larger for smaller temperature. It is probably related to the peak of χ_4 at T_c [42], which has not been appropriately considered in the present study. As explained above, the fit was only carried out regarding the χ_2 lattice data. Since the lattice QCD results were obtained by a Taylor expansion in terms of $\frac{\mu}{T}$, it is thus meaningful to show our results also truncated to the corresponding order when comparing to them. This is shown in Figs. 3(c) and 3(d). It is noted when we evaluate the pressure difference expanded up to the order of $\left(\frac{\mu}{T}\right)^2$, the calculated curve stays closer to the lattice results, as expected. The is shown by the dotted green curves in Fig. 3(c). But since the present quasiparticle model does not consider any contribution from the mixed secondorder derivative such as χ_{11}^{ud} , it is merely understood as a result of appropriate parametrization. For the same reason, the results on fourth-order cumulant χ_4^B presents more substantial discrepancies. Probably due to a similar reason, some small deviation is also found for the calculated sound velocity as a function of temperature. However, by adjusting the gluon mass in the region of temperature $T \sim T_c$, we were able to reproduce the behavior of the sound speed that increases again as the temperature reaches the sector associated with the hadronic resonance gas. From a practical viewpoint, these

²This is a simplifying assumption, and it may be not valid in general. A more realistic approach is to accommodate the existing results regarding the momentum dependence of parton mass.



FIG. 1. The resultant temperature-dependent quasiparticle mass for glouns, light, and strange quarks at zero chemical potential.

difference can also be amended by manually connecting the quasiparticle EoS to that of the hadronic resonance gas model.

To compare two different solutions discussed in the previous section, we solve Eqs. (24) and (28), respectively, but fitting to the given boundary condition at $n_B = 0$ defined by the lattice data. The corresponding results are shown in Fig. 4, where the obtained particle masses are presented as a function of temperature. In the first case, since the mass is also a function of momentum k, the presented results are average values evaluated by using the same weight on the r.h.s. of Eqs. (12) or (17). Numerically, one finds that the particles masses from two different schemes are quite close



FIG. 2. The calculated thermodynamical quantities for both vanishing and finite baryon chemical potential. The thermodynamical quantities obtained by the present model are shown in the dotted blue curves. The calculated results truncated in terms of $\frac{\mu}{T}$ up to second order are shown in the dotted green curves. They are compared to those of lattice QCD calculations the Wuppertal-Budapest [35,36] and HotQCD [37–39] Collaborations, indicated by filled red circles and grey squares (with error bars when it applies), respectively. (a), (b) The results of entropy density, energy density, pressure, and trace anomaly at zero baryon chemical potential. (c) Calculated speed of sound. (d)Trace anomaly for different values of chemical potential.



FIG. 3. The calculated thermodynamical quantities for both vanishing and finite baryon chemical potential. The thermodynamical quantities obtained by the present model are shown in the dotted blue curves. The calculated results truncated in terms of $\frac{\mu}{T}$ up to second and fourth order are shown in the dotted green and dashed purple curves, respectively. They are compared to those of lattice QCD calculations the Wuppertal-Budapest [35,36] and HotQCD [37–39] Collaborations, indicated by filled red circles and grey squares (with error bars when it applies), respectively. (a), (b) The difference of pressure for given μ_B or μ_B/T as a function of temperature. The calculations were carried out by using different truncations and the results are compared against corresponding lattice data. (c), (d) The second- and fourth-order cumulants of particle number fluctuations χ_2 and χ_4 .

to each other. Though it seems to be a somewhat a surprising result, we understand that it could be merely owing to that both approaches are tuned to reproduce the lattice data and the fact the numerically obtained momentum dependence of quasiparticle mass is not strong at all. The latter is observed in Fig. 4(c), which presents the obtained momentum dependence of quark masses for a given temperature, but with different values of chemical potential. It is observed that the quasiparticle mass decreases slightly but monotonically and converges to a given value as the momentum increases. As the chemical potential increases, the dependence becomes stronger, though the overall dependence is not significant.

Last but not least, we show that the results obtained in the present approach are consistent with the established perturbative limit. This is achieved by carrying out calculations by using the quasiparticle model proposed in Ref. [32] with the following forms for the quasiparticle masses

$$m_a^2 = m_{a0}^2 + \Pi_a, (34)$$

where a = g, q, s and the quasiparticle self-energies adopt the asymptotic forms of the gauge-independent hard thermal/dense loop (HTL) calculations [6,43]:

$$\Pi_g = \left(\left[3 + \frac{N_f}{2} \right] T^2 + \frac{3}{2\pi^2} \sum_f \mu_f^2 \right) \frac{G^2}{6}, \quad (35)$$

$$\Pi_q = 2m_{q0}\sqrt{\frac{G^2}{6}\left(T^2 + \frac{\mu_q^2}{\pi^2}\right)} + \frac{G^2}{3}\left(T^2 + \frac{\mu_q^2}{\pi^2}\right), \quad (36)$$

$$\Pi_s = 2m_{s0}\sqrt{\frac{G^2}{6}T^2 + \frac{G^2}{3}T^2}.$$
(37)

For the high temperature region, the coupling is taken to have the form of the perturbative running coupling at two-loop order

$$G^{2}(T, \mu_{q} = 0) = \frac{16\pi^{2}}{\beta_{0}\log\xi^{2}} \left[1 - \frac{2\beta_{1}}{\beta_{0}}\frac{\log(\log\xi^{2})}{\log\xi^{2}}\right], \quad (38)$$



FIG. 4. (a), (b) The calculated quasiparticle mass of light quarks and its derivative as functions of temperature for different baryon chemical potentials, obtained by solving Eq. (28), in comparison to those by solving Eq. (24), the latter is equivalent to the approach by Peshier *et al.* [18]. (c) The quasiparticle mass of light quarks as a function of momentum for the solution discussed in this work. (d) The calculated asymptotic behavior of quasiparticle masses, in comparison to a model [32] inspired by the gauge-independent hard thermal/dense loop (HTL) calculations.

with

$$\beta_0 = \frac{11N_c - 2N_f}{3},$$
(39)

$$\beta_1 = \frac{34N_c^2 - 13N_cN_f - 3N_f/N_c}{6},\tag{40}$$

and

$$\xi = \lambda \frac{T - T_s}{T_c},\tag{41}$$

which regulates the infrared divergence of the running coupling. For the parameters, the scale parameter and the temperature shift are chosen to be $\lambda = 1.5$ and $T_s = 0.15T_c$. This is done so that the model may adequately reproduce the recent lattice data [35,36] in the intermediate temperature region, while the remaining parameters are taken to be the same as used in the literature [44]. The calculated asymptotic behavior of the quasiparticle mass is shown in Fig. 4(d). As described above, the quasiparticle masses at vanishing chemical potential are adjusted to reproduce the lattice data at the intermediate temperature. We first interpolate the lattice data, and then make use of the obtained expression to evaluate the particle masses for the whole temperature range. The interpolation is carried out by specifically requiring the asymptotic behavior in Eq. (37) is attained at the limit $T \rightarrow \infty$. It is shown that our present approach is indeed consistent with the established perturbative limit. Owing to Eq. (37), at very high temperature but physically relevant finite chemical potential, the limit established above does not change at all, which is also confirmed by the numerical calculations.

IV. CONCLUDING REMARKS

To summarize, in this work we study the thermodynamic consistency of the quasiparticle model and its implications on quasiparticle mass. We find alternative possible solutions that have not be explored before, and an essential characteristic of these solutions is that the quasiparticle mass is also a function of the momentum. Consequently, thermodynamical quantities are actually *functionals* of particle mass, and in this case, the formulation concerning the derivatives with respect to *m*, such as dB/dm on the left-hand side (l.h.s.) of Eq. (2), cease to be well defined. As discussed in the previous sections, such momentum dependence of quasiparticle mass is not a free parametrization but is derived from the requirement of thermodynamical consistency. In particular, we investigate

one special solution, and find that it is consistent with the most recent lattice data. In fact, the momentum-dependent effective mass is a meaningful concept. For instance, results on the gluon [45-48] and quark propagator [49] in terms of the Gribov-Zwanziger framework show that the resultant pole masses indeed are functions of momentum. Also, other nonperturbative approaches such as the Schwinger-Dyson equation indicate that both gluon [50] and quark [51,52] dynamic masses are momentum dependent. In particular, the concept of momentum-dependent self-energy was investigated by many authors in the context of quasiparticle model [53-56]. In addition, we show that the scenario discussed previously by other authors [20,30-32] can be readily restored if one enforces that quasiparticle mass is only a function of temperature and chemical potential. From our viewpoint, however, the derived "flow equation" for the running coupling [20] can alternatively be written down as an equation in terms of the quasiparticle mass. We also investigate a special solution where quasiparticle mass is a function of the momentum, by simply matching the integrants of the integrodifferential equation. By numerical calculations, we show that the difference between these different schemes are not very significant, once the lattice data at zero chemical potential is used as a constraint.

Partly inherited from most quasiparticle approaches, the present model does not naturally address the flavor offdiagonal correlations. These off-diagonal correlations subsequently lead to deviation from the lattice data in the transition region at fourth order and beyond. Also, as the present model still show some discrepancy from the lattice data for the region $T < T_c$, it seems natural to smoothly connect the EoS in this region to that of hadronic resonance gas model. In Ref. [57], a critical point was implemented phenomenologically at finite baryon chemical potential. Since the EoS plays an essential role in the hydrodynamic description of relativistic heavyion collisions [58-60], one can employ this scheme to study the properties of the system regarding the existence of the critical point, especially their particular consequences owing to the hydrodynamic evolution of the system. Hopefully, some observables can be compared to the ongoing RHIC beam energy scan program [61–64]. We plan to carry out a hydrodynamic study of the relevant quantities using the proposed EoS.

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APPENDIX

In this section, we show how the solutions of Eqs. (24) and (29) are obtained. As a matter of fact, the procedure to solve the first equation is very similar, while the second is slightly more complicated. Therefore, in what follows, we explicitly derive the solution of Eq. (29) and briefly discuss how that of Eq. (24) is obtained. One first rewrites Eq. (29) by defining

$$w = \omega^* - \mu. \tag{A1}$$

Since $m = \sqrt{(w + \mu)^2 - k^2}$, considering k merely as a parameter in $m = m(k, T, \mu)$, and $(w + \mu)$ as an intermediate variable, one has

$$\frac{\partial m}{\partial \mu} = \frac{\partial m}{\partial (w+\mu)} \frac{\partial (w+\mu)}{\partial \mu},$$
$$\frac{\partial m}{\partial T} = \frac{\partial m}{\partial (w+\mu)} \frac{\partial (w+\mu)}{\partial T} = \frac{\partial m}{\partial (w+\mu)} \frac{\partial w}{\partial T}.$$

Thus Eq. (29) implies

$$\frac{\partial(w+\mu)}{\partial\mu} = \frac{T}{w}\frac{\partial w}{\partial T},\tag{A2}$$

or equivalently,

$$w\frac{\partial w}{\partial \mu} - T\frac{\partial w}{\partial T} + w = 0, \tag{A3}$$

whose solution can be obtained by using the method of characteristics [65]. To be specific, the above partial different equation can be fit into the formal form

$$a(\mu, T, w)\frac{\partial w}{\partial \mu} + b(\mu, T, w)\frac{\partial w}{\partial T} = c(\mu, T, w), \quad (A4)$$

with

$$a(\mu, T, w) = w, \quad b(\mu, T, w) = -T, \quad c(\mu, T, w) = -w,$$
(A5)

whose formal solution is the surface, defined by $f(\mu, T, w) = w - w(\mu, T) = 0$, tangent to the vector field $(a(\mu, T, w), b(\mu, T, w), c(\mu, T, w))$, namely,

$$\frac{d\mu}{w} = \frac{dT}{-T} = \frac{dw}{-w}.$$
 (A6)

As it contains two independent equations, one may conveniently select

and

$$a(\mu+w)=0$$

$$d\left[\ln\left(\frac{w}{T}\right)\right] = d\left(\frac{w}{T}\right) = 0.$$

This indicates that, for any function F(u, v), the desired solution w satisfies

$$F\left(\frac{w}{T}, (w+\mu)\right) = 0. \tag{A7}$$

Now, as discussed in the above text, the solution of the equation is determined by the boundary condition at $\mu = 0$, where $m(k, T, \mu = 0) \equiv f(T)$. In other words, the form of *F* shall be determined by the boundary condition. If one defines

 $F_0(u, v) \equiv F(\mu = 0)$, it is easy to verify that³

$$F(u, v) = \sqrt{f\left(\frac{v}{u}\right)^2 + k^2} - v \tag{A8}$$

indeed satisfies Eq. (29). Subsequently, the general solution of $\omega^*(k, T, \mu)$ for finite chemical potential is given by

$$\sqrt{f\left(\frac{T\omega^*}{\omega^*-\mu}\right)^2 + k^2 - \omega^* = 0,}$$
 (A9)

³It is in fact one of many equivalent choices, e.g., another possibility is $F(u, v) = uf^{-1}(\sqrt{v^2 - k^2}) - v$.

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or

$$m = f\left(\frac{T\omega^*}{\omega^* - \mu}\right),\tag{A10}$$

which is Eq. (30).

As for Eq. (24), one may immediately recognize that the equation possesses the same form of Eq. (A4) by recognizing

$$a(\mu, T, m) = \langle\!\langle 1 \rangle\!\rangle_+, \quad b(\mu, T, m) = -\langle\!\langle 1 \rangle\!\rangle_-,$$

$$c(\mu, T, m) = 0. \tag{A11}$$

Therefore, the formal solution reads

$$\frac{d\mu}{\langle\!\langle 1 \rangle\!\rangle_{+}} = \frac{dT}{\langle\!\langle 1 \rangle\!\rangle_{-}},\tag{A12}$$

which is the solution presented in the main text.

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