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Importance of Being Critical

Lattice QCD Results

Searching Experimentally

Summary

Institut für Theoretische Physik, Universität Regensburg, January 22, 2010

Phase Diagram of Water



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• One, possibly two, critical points

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 ⇒ Opalescent turbidity

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 ⇒ Opalescent turbidity
- Dielectric constant
 & Viscosity ↓.
- Many liquid fueled engines exploit such supercritical transitions.









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- Particle in state A can be transformed to state B by a Lorentz transformation along z-axis.
- The particle must come to rest in between : $m \neq 0$.
- For (N_f) massless particles, A or B do not change into each other: Chiral Symmetry (SU(N_f) × SU(N_f)).

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- New States at High Temperatures/Density expected on basis of models.
- Quark-Gluon Plasma is such a phase. It presumably filled our Universe a few microseconds after the Big Bang & can be produced in Relativistic Heavy Ion Collisions.
- Much richer structure in QCD : Quark Confinement, Dynamical Symmetry Breaking.. Lattice QCD should shed light on this all.

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From Rajagopal-Wilczek Review

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Lattice QCD Results

- QCD defined on a space time lattice Best and Most Reliable way to extract non-perturbative physics.
- Completely parameter-free : Λ_{QCD} and quark masses from hadron spectrum.
- The Transition Temperature T_c , the Equation of State, Flavour Correlations (C_{BS}) and the Wróblewski Parameter λ_s are some examples for Heavy Ion Physics. (Gavai-Gupta, PRD 2006 & PRD 2002)

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- Mostly staggered quarks used in these simulations. Broken flavour and spin symmetry on lattice $\implies N_f = 2$ simulations may be fine in $a \rightarrow 0$ limit but 3 or 2 +1 problematic.
- Domain Wall or Overlap Fermions better. BUT Computationally expensive.
- Introduction of μ a la Bloch & Wettig (PRL 2006 & PRD2007)
- unfortunately breaks chiral symmetry ! (Banerjee, Gavai & Sharma PRD 2008; PoS (Lattice 2008); PRD 2009)

The $\mu \neq 0$ problem

Assuming N_f flavours of quarks, and denoting by μ_f the corresponding chemical potentials, the QCD partition function is

$$\mathcal{Z} = \int {DU\exp (- S_G)} \; \prod_f {
m Det} \; {M(m_f, \mu_f)}$$
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and the thermal expectation value of an observable $\ensuremath{\mathcal{O}}$ is

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However, det M is a complex number for any $\mu \neq 0$: The Phase/sign problem

Lattice Approaches

Several Approaches proposed in the past two decades : None as satisfactory as the usual $T \neq 0$ simulations. Still scope for a good/great idea !

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- Imaginary Chemical Potential (Ph. de Frocrand & O. Philipsen, NP B642 (2002) 290; M.-P. Lombardo & M. D'Elia PR D67 (2003) 014505).
- Taylor Expansion (C. Allton et al., PR D66 (2002) 074507 & D68 (2003) 014507; R.V. Gavai and S. Gupta, PR D68 (2003) 034506).

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- Canonical Ensemble (K. -F. Liu, IJMP B16 (2002) 2017, S. Kratochvila and P. de Forcrand, Pos LAT2005 (2006) 167.)
- Complex Langevin (G. Aarts and I. O. Stamatescu, arXiv:0809.5227 and its references for earlier work).

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How Do We Do This Expansion?

Canonical definitions yield various number densities and susceptibilities :

$$n_i = \frac{T}{V} \frac{\partial \ln \mathcal{Z}}{\partial \mu_i}$$
 and $\chi_{ij} = \frac{T}{V} \frac{\partial^2 \ln \mathcal{Z}}{\partial \mu_i \partial \mu_j}$

These are also useful by themselves both theoretically and for Heavy Ion Physics (Flavour correlations, $\lambda_s \dots$)

Denoting higher order susceptibilities by χ_{n_u,n_d} , the pressure P has the expansion in μ :

$$\frac{\Delta P}{T^4} \equiv \frac{P(\mu, T)}{T^4} - \frac{P(0, T)}{T^4} = \sum_{n_u, n_d} \chi_{n_u, n_d} \frac{1}{n_u!} \left(\frac{\mu_u}{T}\right)^{n_u} \frac{1}{n_d!} \left(\frac{\mu_d}{T}\right)^{n_d} \tag{1}$$

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- From this expansion, a series for baryonic susceptibility can be constructed. Its radius of convergence gives the nearest critical point.
- Successive estimates for the radius of convergence can be obtained from these using $\sqrt{\frac{n(n+1)\chi_B^{(n+1)}}{\chi_B^{(n+3)}T^2}}$ or $\left(n!\frac{\chi_B^{(2)}}{\chi_B^{(n+2)}T^2}\right)^{1/n}$. We use both and terms up to 8th order in μ .
- All coefficients of the series must be POSITIVE for the critical point to be at real $\mu,$ and thus physical.
- Coefficients for the off-diagonal susceptibility, χ_{11} , can be constructed similarly.
- The ratio χ_{11}/χ_{20} can be shown to yield the ratio of widths of the measure in the imaginary and real directions at $\mu = 0$.

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CRAY X1 of I L G T I , T I F R, Mumbai

Our Simulations & Results

- Staggered fermions with $N_f = 2$ of $m/T_c = 0.1$; R-algorithm used.
- $m_{
 ho}/T_c = 5.4 \pm 0.2$ and $m_{\pi}/m_{
 ho} = 0.31 \pm 0.01$ (MILC)
- Earlier Lattice : 4 $\times N_s^3$, $N_s = 8$, 10, 12, 16, 24 (Gavai-Gupta, PRD 2005)
- Lattice used : $6 \times N_s^3$, $N_s = 12$, 18, 24 (Gavai-Gupta, PRD 2009). Needed to determine β_c . Our result ($\beta_c = 5.425(5)$) well bracketed by MILC for $m/T_c = 0.075$ and 0.15.

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- New Simulations made at $T/T_c = 0.89(1)$, 0.92(1), 0.94(1), 0.97(1), 0.99 (1) 1.00(1), 1.21(1), 1.33(1), 1.48(3) and 1.92(5)
- Typical stat. 50-200 in max autocorrelation units.









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- Strong finite size effects for small N_s . A strong change around $N_s m_{\pi} \sim 6$. (Compatible with arguments of Smilga & Leutwyler and also seen for hadron masses by Gupta & Ray)
- $\frac{T^E}{T_c} = 0.94 \pm 0.01$, and $\frac{\mu_B^E}{T^E} = 1.8 \pm 0.1$ for finer lattice: Our earlier coarser lattice result was $\mu_B^E/T^E = 1.3 \pm 0.3$. Infinite volume result: \downarrow to 1.1(1)
- Critical point shifted to smaller $\mu_B/T \sim 1-2.$

More Details

Measure of the seriousness of sign problem : χ_{11} ; $N_t = 4$ & 6 agree.



Cross Check on μ^E/T^E

• Use Padé approximants for the series to estimate the radius of convergence.

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 \heartsuit Consistent Window with our other estimates.



(Ch. Schmidt FAIR Lattice QCD Days, Nov 23-24, 2009.)

Imaginary Chemical Potential

deForcrand-Philpsen JHEP 0811



For $N_f = 3$, they find $\frac{m_c(\mu)}{m_c(0)} = 1 - 3.3(3) \left(\frac{\mu}{\pi T_c}\right)^2 - 47(20) \left(\frac{\mu}{\pi T_c}\right)^4$, i.e., m_c shrinks with μ .

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Problems : i) Positive coefficient for finer lattice (Philipsen, CPOD 2009), ii) Known examples where shapes are different in real/imaginary μ ,

"The Critical line from imaginary to real baryonic chemical potentials in two-color QCD", P. Cea, L. Cosmai, M. D'Elia, A. Papa, PR D77, 2008





Searching Experimentally

- Exploit the facts i) susceptibilities diverge near the critical point and ii) decreasing \sqrt{s} increases μ_B (Rajagopal, Shuryak & Stephanov PRD 1999)
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Remark: predicted fluctuations at the critical point should result in $\Phi_{PT} \cong 20$ MeV/c, the effect of limited acceptance of NA49 reduces them to $\Phi_{PT} \cong 10$ MeV/c

- Define $m_1 = \frac{T\chi^{(3)}(T,\mu_B)}{\chi^{(2)}(T,\mu_B)}$, $m_3 = \frac{T\chi^{(4)}(T,\mu_B)}{\chi^{(3)}(T,\mu_B)}$, and $m_2 = m_1m_3$ and use Lattice QCD to obtain them. (Gavai-Gupta, TIFR/TH/10-01, arXiv 1001.3796)
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• Our estimated critical point suggests a peak in all m_i which would be accesible to the low energy scan of RHIC BNL !!

- Proton number fluctuations (Hatta-Stephenov, PRL 2003)
- Neat idea : directly linked to the baryonic susceptibility which ought to diverge at the critical point. Since diverging ξ is linked to σ mode, which cannot mix with any isospin modes, expect χ_I to be regular.

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- Leads to a ratio $\chi_Q:\chi_I:\chi_B = 1:0:4$
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- Assuming protons, neutrons, pions to dominate, both χ_Q and χ_B can be shown to be proton number fluctuations only.
- Isentropic trajectories focus at the critical point (Asakawa-Nonaka, PRC 2005).
- This leads to the emission of high p_T particles at earlier times. (Asakawa-Bass-Nonaka-Müller, INT 2008 workshop).
- Note this is NOT a fluctuations signal but model (EoS) dependent ?



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So far no signs of a critical point in the experimental results at CERN. Will RHIC deliver it for us ?