A Synergic Search for QCD Critical Point

Rajiv V. Gavai T. I. F. R., Mumbai

Importance of Being Critical

Theoretical Results

Searching Experimentally

Summary

Importance of Being Critical : meV Critical Point



$\hbar = c = k = 1 \implies 1.16 \times 10^4 \,^{\circ}\text{K} \equiv 1 \,\,\text{eV};$ Picts From Wikipedia

♠ Many liquid fueled engines exploit such supercritical transitions.

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\heartsuit About a third of hop extraction using supercritical CO₂!

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The MeV Scale – QCD – Critical Point

- QCD : A Gauge Theory of interactions of quarks-gluons.
- Unlike QED, the coupling is usually very large : by \sim 100.
- For (N_f) massless particles, Chiral Symmetry $(SU(N_f) \times SU(N_f))$.
- Much richer structure : Quark Confinement, Chiral Symmetry Breaking..

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- Very high interaction (binding) energies. E.g., $M_{Proton} \gg (2m_u + m_d)$, by a factor of 100 \rightarrow Understanding it is knowing where the Visible mass of Universe comes from.
- Interactions break the chiral symmetry dynamically, leading to effective masses for the quarks.

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- Chiral symmetry **may** get restored at sufficiently high temperatures or densities. Effective mass then 'melts' away, just as magnet loses its magnetic properties on heating.
- New States at High Temperatures/Density expected on basis of models.
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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. QCD Critical Point arises also due to Chiral Symmetry.
- Ideally, QCD should shed light on its richer structure : Quark Confinement, Dynamical Symmetry Breaking.. But Models did that first.

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From Rajagopal-Wilczek Review

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Putting QCD to Work

- QCD Partition Function : $Z_{QCD} = \text{Tr } \exp[-(H_{QCD} \mu_B N_B)/T].$
- A first-principles calculation of $\epsilon(\mu, T)$ or $P(\mu, T)$ to look for phase transitions, Critical Point and many phases using the underlying theory QCD alone: NO free parameters and NO arbitrary assumptions.
- Price to pay : Functional integrations have to be done over quark and gluon fields : ∫ dx F(x) → ∫ Dφ F[φ(x)].

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- Price to pay : Functional integrations have to be done over quark and gluon fields : $\int dx F(x) \rightarrow \int \mathcal{D}\phi \mathcal{F}[\phi(x)].$
- Simpson integration trick : $\int dx F(x) = \lim_{\Delta x \to 0} \sum_i \Delta x F(x_i)$.
- Its analogue to perform functional integrations needs discretizing the space-time on which the fields are defined : Lattice Field Theory !

Basic Lattice QCD

- Discrete space-time : Lattice spacing *a* UV Cut-off.
- Quark fields $\psi(x)$, $\overline{\psi}(x)$ on lattice sites.
- Gluon Fields on links : $U_{\mu}(x)$



Basic Lattice QCD

X

X

X

X

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X

X

X

X

X

X

X

X

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Plaquette

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- Quark fields $\psi(x)$, $\overline{\psi}(x)$ on lattice sites.
- Gluon Fields on links : $U_{\mu}(x)$
- Gauge invariance : Actions from Closed Wilson loops, e.g., plaquette.
- Fermion Actions : Staggered, Wilson, Overlap, Domain Wall..

Lattice QCD Results

 QCD defined on a space time lattice – Best and Most Reliable way to extract non-perturbative physics: Notable successes are hadron masses(S. Dürr et all, Science (2008)) & decay constants.



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• The Transition Temperature T_c , the Equation of State, Heavy flavour diffusion coefficient D (Banerjee et al. PRD (2012), Flavour Correlations C_{BS} and the Wróblewski Parameter λ_s are some examples for Heavy Ion Physics.

Diffusion coefficient



- Compatible with models predicting a value of diff. coefficient between 2 to ~10
- Lattice calculations, although with large uncertainties, are consistent with values inferred from data



Obstacles for $\mu \neq 0$

- Quark type : For $\langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle$ to remain Order Parameter, Chiral Symmetry on Lattice Crucial \rightsquigarrow Staggered fermions.
- Only two light flavours results in a Critical Point. $U_A(1)$ -anomaly may be important as well. Staggered fermions break flavour symmetry and $U_A(1)$!
- Overlap/Domain Wall quarks required. Nonzero μ difficult problem for them but resolved recently. (RVG-Sharma PLB '15, PRD '12, PLB '12, PRD '10; Bloch-Wittig PRL '06, PRD '07; Banerjee-RVG-Sharma PRD '08,PoS LAT '08).

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- Complex Measure : Probabilistic methods used to compute, with a measure
 ~ exp(-S_G) Det M. Simulations can be done IF Det M > 0 for all sets of
 gauge fields. However, Det M is a complex number for any µ ≠ 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 (R.V. Gavai and S. Gupta, PR D68 (2003) 034506 ; C. Allton et al., PR D68 (2003) 014507).
 - Canonical Ensemble (К. -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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- Why Taylor series expansion? i) Ease of taking continuum and thermodynamic limit & ii) Better control of systematic errors.

First Glimpse of QCD Critical Point



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Larger N_t or Continuum limit ?

QCD Critical Point : Taylor Expansion

• 1^{st} & 2^{nd} derivatives with μ_i yield various number densities and susceptibilities. Denoting higher order susceptibilities by χ_{n_u,n_d} , the pressure has the expansion:

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

- Using this, a series for baryonic susceptibility can be constructed. Its radius of convergence, obtained by cannonical methods, is the nearest critical point.
- All coefficients of the series must be POSITIVE for the critical point to be at real μ , and thus physical.
- We (ILGTI-Mumbai '05, '09, '13) use up to 8th order. Budapest-Wuppertal & Bielefeld-RBC so far have up to 6th order. Ideas to extend to higher orders are emerging (Gavai-Sharma PRD 2012 & PRD 2010).

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Simulation Details & Results

- Staggered fermions with $N_f = 2$ of $m/T_c = 0.1$; R-algorithm used.
- Continuum limit of $a \to 0$ by holding $T_c^{-1} = aN_t = constant$ as $N_t \uparrow$.
- T_c defined by the peak of a susceptibility (of Polyakov loop) at $\mu = 0$.
- Began with Lattices : 4 $\times N_s^3$, $N_s = 8$, 10, 12, 16, 24 (Gavai-Gupta, PRD 2005); Finer Lattice : 6 $\times N_s^3$, $N_s = 12$, 18, 24 (Gavai-Gupta, PRD 2009).
- Even finer Lattice : 8 $\times 32^3$ (Datta-RVG-Gupta, NPA 2013). Aspect ratio, N_s/N_t , maintained four to reduce finite volume effects.
- Simulations made at $T/T_c =$ 0.90, 0.92, 0.94, 0.96, 0.98, 1.00, 1.02, 1.12, 1.5 and 2.01.

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• Critical point at $\mu_B/T \sim 1-2$ suggested.

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Critical Point : Inching Towards Continuum



Searching Experimentally: The freezeout curve

• Hadron yields well described using Statistical Hadronization Models, leading to the freezeout curve in the T- μ_B plane. (Andronic, Braun-Munzinger & Stachel, PLB 2009; Oeschler,

Cleymans, Redlich & Wheaton, 2009)



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• Hadron yields well described using Statistical Hadronization Models, leading to the freezeout curve in the $T-\mu_B$ plane. (Andronic, Braun-Munzinger & Stachel, PLB 2009; Oeschler, Cleymans, Redlich & Wheaton, 2009)



• Plotting these results in the T- μ_B plane, one has the freezeout curve, which was shown to correspond the $\langle E \rangle / \langle N \rangle \simeq 1$. (Cleymans and Redlich, PRL 1998)



The Beam Energy Scan Program at RHIC and SPS

RHIC: STAR and PHENIX (Collider) SPS: NA61 and NA49 (Fixed Target)

Au+Au Collisions

√s (GeV)	Statistics(10 ⁶)	μ _B (MeV)
7.7	~4	420
11.5	~12	315
14.5	~ 20	266
19.6	~36	205
27	~70	155
39	~130	115
62.4	~67	70
200	~350	20



arXiv:1007.2613

https://drupal.star.bnl.gov/STAR/starnotes/public/sn0493 https://drupal.star.bnl.gov/STAR/starnotes/public/sn0598 JINST 9 (2014) P06005 [arXiv:1401.4699]

Finish Ar+Sc collisions in 2015

Exploring the QCD phase structure by varying the collision energy and/ or system size to change temperature and baryon chemical potential.

Oct. 1st	Xiaofeng Luo – Quark Matter 2015	9 / 29		
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Searching Along The Freezeout Curve



- Exploit the facts i) susceptibilities diverge near the critical point and ii) decreasing \sqrt{s} increases μ_B (Rajagopal, Shuryak & Stephanov PRD 1999).

STAR Collaboration, Aggarwal et al. arXiv : 1007.2637

Searching Along The Freezeout Curve



- Exploit the facts i) susceptibilities diverge near the critical point and ii) decreasing \sqrt{s} increases μ_B (Rajagopal, Shuryak & Stephanov PRD 1999).
- Look for nonmontonic dependence of the event-byevent fluctuations with colliding energy. No indications in early such results for π , K-mesons. E.g., CERN NA49 results (c. Roland NA49, J.Phys. G30 (2004) S1381-S1384).



Fluctuations measure from NA49/NA61: 2D Scan

SPS: Scan Nuclear Mass and Collision Energy (2D Scan)



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Lattice predictions along the freezeout curve



- Note : Freeze-out curve is based solely on data on hadron yields, & gives the (T, μ) accessible in heavy-ion experiments.
- Our Key Proposal : Use the freezeout curve from hadron abundances to *predict baryon* fluctuations using lattice QCD along it. (Gavai-Gupta, TIFR/TH/10-01, arXiv 1001.3796)











• Use the freezeout curve to relate (T, μ_B) to \sqrt{s} and employ lattice QCD predictions along it. (Gavai-Gupta, TIFR/TH/10-01, arXiv 1001.3796)

• 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 the Padè method to construct them.

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- Smooth & monotonic behaviour for large \sqrt{s} : $m_1 \downarrow$, $m_3 \uparrow$, and $m_2 \sim$ constant.
- Note that even in this smooth region, an experimental comparison is exciting : Direct Non-Perturbative test of QCD in hot and dense environment.





Aggarwal et al., STAR Collaboration, arXiv : 1004.4959

• Reasonable agreement with our lattice results. Where is the critical point ?

- Our estimated critical point suggests non-monotonic behaviour in all m_i , which should be accessible to the low energy scan of RHIC BNL !
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- Leads to a ratio $\chi_Q:\chi_I:\chi_B = 1:0:4$
- Assuming protons, neutrons, pions to dominate, both χ_Q and χ_B can be shown to be fully reflected in proton number fluctuations.





Increasing Δp_T deepens the structure ! X. Luo, CPOD 2014, Bielefeld, STAR Collab.



Net-proton Higher Moments



Net-proton results: Non-monotonic behavior in central collision data.

B. Mohanty, xQCD2015

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"These observables show a centrality and energy dependence, which are neither reproduced by non-CP transport model calculations, nor by a hadron resonance gas model." — STAR Collaboration PRL (2014).

BES Phase II Proposal STAR Note 0598

BES Phase II is planned for two 22 cryo-week runs in 2018 and 2019

STAR Upgrades: iTPC, EndCap ToF and Event Plane Detector

	√S _{NN} (GeV)	5.0	7.7	9.1	11. 5	13.0	14. 5	19.6
	$\mu_{\scriptscriptstyle B}(\text{MeV})$	550	420	370	315	290	25 0	205
	BES I (MEvts)		4.3		11.7		24	36
	Rate(MEvt s/day)		0.2 5		1.7		2.4	4.5
	BES L (1×10 ²⁵ /cm ² se c)		0.1 3		1.5		2.1	4.0
	BES II (MEvts)		100	160	230	250	30 0	400
	eCooling (Factor)	2	3	4	6	8	11	15
	Beam Time (weeks)		14	9.5	5.0	3.0	2.5	3.0
ergy	Time (weeks) Physics Phenomen	ology (WF		/). I. I. T.	Kanpur.	December 7	. 2015	

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Summary

- Phase diagram in $T \mu$ has begun to emerge: Different methods, \rightsquigarrow similar qualitative picture. Critical Point at $\mu_B/T \sim 1 - 2$.
- Our results for $N_t = 8$ first to begin the inching towards continuum limit.

Summary

• Phase diagram in $T - \mu$ has begun to emerge: Different methods, ~> similar 1.1 qualitative picture. Critical Point at Critical point estimates: $\mu_B/T \sim 1 - 2.$ 1 Budapest-Wuppertal Nt=4 II GTI-Mumbai 30 Ge • Our results for $N_t = 8$ first to begin $\stackrel{\circ}{\succeq}$ 0.9 the inching towards continuum limit. Freezeout curve 10 Ge\ 0.8 We showed that Critical Point leads to structures in m_i on the Freeze-Out 0.7 $\mu_{\rm B}/T$ Curve. Possible Signature ?

 \heartsuit STAR, BNL results appear to agree with our Lattice QCD predictions. \heartsuit