Theoretical Study of QCD Phase Diagram at High Baryon Density

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QCD Phase Diagram



Crossover at μ = 0
 Possible first-order transition and QCD critical point in dense region
 Multiple QCD-CP? MK+ ('02)
 Color superconducting phases in dense and cold quark matter

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Highest Baryon Density



Highest Baryon Density



 $E/A = 20 {\rm GeV}$ $\sqrt{s_{_{NN}}} \simeq 6 {\rm GeV}$



Akira Ohnishi 1964-2023 passed away silently on May. 16, 2023



History / Current Status of HIC



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J-PARC

Accelerators −LINAC −RCS −Main Ring(MR) ■ High intensity *I* = 1MW

Purposes— Hadron/Nuclear physics— Neutrino physics— Material/Life science



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 - Purposes
 Hadron/Nuclear physics

 Neutrino physics
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J-PARC Heavy Ion Program High intensity Intermediate energy

J-PARC-HI Staging Plan

Phase-I

---KEK-BS booster ---E16+ α spectrometer

Phase-II

NEW HI boosterNEW spectrometer



Event-by-event Fluctuations of Conserved Charges

A Coin Game

Bet 25 Euro
 You get head coins of



Same expectation value.

A Coin Game

Bet 25 Euro
 You get head coins of



50

Same expectation value. But, different **fluctuations**.

Fluctuations in HIC @ 2nd Order

Search for QCD CP

Onset of QGP





Fluctuation increases

Fluctuation decreases

Stephanov, Rajagopal, Shuryak, 1998; 1999

Asakawa, Heinz, Muller, 2000; Jeon, Koch, 2000

Higher Order Cumulants





Asakawa, MK, PPNP 90, 299 (2016)

Non-Gaussian Fluctuations in HIC

Onset of QGP



Fluctuation decreases

Ejiri, Karsch, Redlich, 2006

Search for QCD CP



Fluctuation **increases**

Stephanov, 2009

Sign of Higher Order Cumulants





Asakawa, Ejiri, MK, 2009



н Stephanov, 2011; Friman, Karsch, Redlich, Skokov, 2011; ...

-0.4

-0.2

0.0

0.2

0.4

Experimental Results

Net-proton number cumulants



Questions

When are these fluctuations generated?
 Is the use of proton # cumulants as a proxy of baryon's justified?

STAR, 2020 (2001.02852)

Non-Poisson and non-monotonic behaviors of the higher order cumulants.



 $\langle N_B^2 \rangle_{\rm c} / \langle N_Q^2 \rangle_{\rm c}$

MK, Esumi, Nonaka, 2205.10030

$\langle N_{\rm B}^2\rangle_c/\langle N_{\rm Q}^2\rangle_c$

Ratio of 2nd order: Suppress uncertainties from various experimental effects compared with higher orders.

 \square Almost linear T dependence around T_c^* .



Experimental Data

MK, Esumi, Nonaka, 2205.10030



STAR, PRC104,024902 (2021)

- proton cumulants up to 4th order
- rapidity window Δy
- $0.4 < p_T < 2.0 {\rm GeV/c}$

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\langle N_{\rm Q}^2 \rangle_c
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STAR, PRC100,014902 (2019)

- 2nd mixed cumulants of p, ,pi, K, Q
- pseudo-rapidity window $\Delta\eta$
- $0.4 < p_T < 1.6 \text{GeV/c}$
- Total charge: private comm. A. Chattergee



 □ proton → baryon cumulants MK, Asakawa,'12;'12
 □ Rapidity is better than pseudo-rapidity Ohnishi, MK, Asakawa, '16

□ Wider acceptance is more desirable.

p_T -Acceptance Correction

MK, Esumi, Nonaka, 2205.10030



correction in HRG: Alba+'14; '15; ...

HIC vs HRG&LAT

From data @ STAR

HRG+Lattice



HRG: QMHRG2020 Bollweg+, PRD104, 7 ('21) Volume dep. corrected plot by MK

HIC vs HRG&LAT

From data @ STAR

HRG+Lattice



D-Measure = Net-charge Fluctuations



 $0.5 < p_T < 3.0 \text{ GeV}$

D-Measure = Net-charge Fluctuations



 $0.5 < p_T < 3.0 \text{ GeV}$

28

Diffusion model in finite volume Sakaida, Asakawa, MK, PRC, 2014



CMS result is well described by a simple diffusion model in finite volume. Effects of the global charge conservation do not affect the results for $\Delta \eta < 5$. 29

MK, in progress

Dilepton Production as experimental observables of Color Superconductivity & QCD-CP

Nishimura, MK, Kunihiro, PTEP2022, 093D02; PTEP2023, 053D01; in prep

Observing CSC in HIC

CSC would not be created if Tc is not high enough.

• Even if created, its lifetime would be short.

Since CSC is created in the early stage, its signal would be blurred during the evolution in later stage.



Strategy in our study:
Focus on precursory phenomena of CSC
Use dilepton production as an observable



Precursor of CSC

Anomalous behavior of observables near but above Tc of SC

electric conductivity
magnetic susceptibility
pseudogap

- Enhanced pair fluctuations is one of the origins of precursory phenomena.
- More significant phenomena in strongly-coupled systems.



Precursor of Color Superconductivity

MK, Koide, Kunihiro, Nemoto, '03, '05

. . .

100

-100

ω

0

Depression

in DoS above Tc



Model

NJL model (2-flavor) 200 $\mathcal{L} = \psi i \partial \!\!\!/ \psi + \mathcal{L}_S + \mathcal{L}_C$ 175 $\mathcal{L}_S = G_S \left((\bar{\psi}\psi)^2 + (\bar{\psi}i\gamma_5\tau\psi)^2 \right)$ 150 $\mathcal{L}_C = G_C ((\bar{\psi} i \gamma_5 \tau_A \lambda_A \psi^C) (\text{h.c.})$ 125 T [MeV]100 diquark interaction 75 **Parameters** 50 $G_S = 5.01 \text{ GeV}^{-2}, \quad \Lambda = 650 \text{MeV}, \quad m_q = 0$ 25 0 0

Phase Diagram in MFA



Order of phase transition

D 2nd in the MFA

□ can be 1st due to gauge fluctuation Matsuura+('04), Giannakis+('04) Noronha+('06), Fejos, Yamamoto('19)

Di-quark Fluctuations



-300

200

 $|\mathbf{k}|$ [MeV]

100

Soft mode of CSC transition
 Strength in the space-like region

MK, Koide, Kunihiro, Nemoto, '01,'05

Photon Self-Energy: Precursor of CSC

Dilepton Production Rate

$$\frac{d^4\Gamma}{dk^4} = \frac{\alpha}{12\pi^4} \frac{1}{k^2} \frac{1}{e^{\beta\omega-1}} \mathrm{Im} \Pi^{R\mu}_{\mu}(k)$$



DEffect of Di-quarks on $\Pi^{\mu u}(k)$



Production Rate at k = 0



Nishimura, MK, Kunihiro ('22)

Red: fluctuation contribution Blue: free quarks $G_C = 0.7G_s, T_c \simeq 45 \text{ MeV}$

Di-quark fluctuations give rise to large enhancement in the low energy region ω < 200 MeV and T < 1.5T_c.
 Anomalous enhancement is not sensitive to T.

Invariant-Mass Spectrum





Strong enhancement at low invariant mass. **Observable in the HIC?**

Dileptons from QCD Critical Point

NJL model (2-flavor)

 $\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}(i\partial \!\!\!/ - m)\psi + G_S((\bar{\psi}\psi)^2 + (\bar{\psi}i\gamma_5\tau\psi)^2)$

Parameters

 $G_S = 5.5 \text{ GeV}^{-2}, \ \Lambda = 631 \text{MeV}, \ m_q = 5.5 \text{ MeV}$

Soft Mode of QCD-CP

= fluctuation of scalar ($\overline{q}q$) channel

 $D^{R}(x) = \langle [\bar{\psi}\psi(x), \bar{\psi}\psi(0)] \rangle \theta(t) = \blacksquare$

Random Phase Approximation

$$= + + + \cdots$$



Dilepton production rate near QCD-CP

Nishimura, MK, Kunihiro ('23)

Invariant mass spectrum



for fixed chem. pot.: $\mu = \mu_c$

□ Enhancement at low M_{ll} region near QCD-CP □ Distinguishment from diquark soft mode may be difficult.

Dilepton Yields: Beam-Energy Scan

Dilepton yields

 \simeq integrated rate along isentropic lines

Isentropic lines in NJL model



Nishimura, Nara, Steinheimer, arXiv:2311.14135

Dilepton Yields 50 < M < 100 MeV





A rich phase structure exists in dense QCD.
 QCD critical point, color superconductivity, etc.
 The beam-energy scan will reveal it.

Many interesting observables to explore the QCD phase diagram:
 Event-by-event fluctuations of conserved charges
 Dilepton production at ultra-low-mass-region
 ...

Effect of Diffusion and Rapidity Conversion

- **D** Blurring due to diffusion & rapidity conversion $(Y \rightarrow y)$
 - Stronger modification in Q than B

DResonance Decays

- About 30% charged particles come from RD
- Enhancement of charged particles

$$\left\{\begin{array}{c} \Box \text{ Increase } \langle N_Q^2 \rangle \\ \Box \text{ Reduce } \langle N_B^2 \rangle_c / \langle N_Q^2 \rangle_c \end{array}\right.$$

These effects will be more important for higher order cumulants!



Cumulants: Proton \rightarrow Baryon & Acceptance Correction

$$\langle N_B^2 \rangle_c / \Delta y$$

$$\langle N_Q^2 \rangle_c / \Delta y$$

Data from STAR, '19, '21



Deviation from Poissonian is clarified by the acceptance correction.

$$\langle N_{
m net}^2
angle_c^{
m corrected} = rac{1}{p^2} \Big(\langle n_{
m net}^2
angle_c - (1-p) \langle n_{
m tot}
angle_c \Big)$$

MK, Asakawa, '12, '12

 $\langle N_B^2
angle_{
m c}/\langle N_Q^2
angle_{
m c}$



 $\Box \langle N_B^2 \rangle_c / \langle N_Q^2 \rangle_c$ becomes smaller due to the p_T -acceptance correction. $\Box \text{ Clear } \Delta y \text{ dependence } \longrightarrow \text{ non-thermal effects behind fluctuations}$

Evolution of Conserved-charge Fluctuations







Hadron/Hypernuclear Physics

Correlation functions

Hypernuclei



Production Mechanism

Light-nuclei production as a signal of QCD critical point



Measurement of light/hyper-nuclei



Precise data will lead us to a better understanding of production mechanism