THE QUEST FOR PHASE TRANSITIONS IN STRONGLY INTERACTING MATTER

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- Phase transitions then and now
- Phases of EM interacting matter
- Phases of strongly interacting matter
- Experimental programs
 - Obtained results
- Summary
- Outlook

Phase transitions then and now



m_p ≈ 937 MeV 2m_u+m_d ≈ 10 MeV (broken Chiral symmetry)

no isolated quarks seen thus far (confinement)

1/100.000 seconds after the Big Bang quarks and gluons recombine to hadrons

- recreating the Universe in laboratories
- exploring phase transitions



Bing Bang vs. Little Bangs



Experimental campaigns in a wide energy range

HADES (few GeV)







PHENIX (7.7- 62.4 GeV)

STAR (7.7-62.4 GeV)

ALICE (few TeV)



Measured signals



Exposed in this talk



Phase transitions, importance of interactions





Ideal gas: $\langle (N - \langle N \rangle)^2 \rangle \xrightarrow{PV = NT} \langle N \rangle$ (Poisson)

Electromagnetically Interacting matter







Einstein, 1910

Rayleigh Ratio $\propto \chi$

probing phase transitions with fluctuations

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Strongly Interacting matter, ultimate temperature

1965: Hagedorn's mass spectrum

$$\rho(m) \propto e^{m/T_H}$$

partition sum for a resonance gas in equilibrium

$$Z(T,V) \simeq \exp\left[\frac{VT}{2\pi^2}\int_0^\infty m^2 K_2\left(\frac{m}{T}\right)\rho(m)dm\right]$$

$$K_2(m/T) \sim (T/m)^{\frac{1}{2}} \exp(-m/T)$$

in the hadronic phase (m/T >> 1)

 $Z(V,T) \rightarrow \infty, T \rightarrow T_H$

1970: *K. Huang and S. Weinberg;* Our present theoretical apparatus is really inadequate to deal with much earlier times, say when T > 100 MeV









1982: G. Baym; deconfinement and chiral phase boundaries 1983: Lattice Monte Carlo; deconfinement and chiral phase boundaries coincide

Fluctuations, Ensemble averaging



Ergodicity hypothesis: Averaging over time is equivalent to the averaging over ensembles.

Ensemble is an idealisation consisting of a large number of mental copies of a system, considered all at once, each represents a possible state that the real system!

probability of a given state with E_i and N_i

Grand Canonical Ensemble



$$p_{j} = \frac{\exp\left[-\left(E_{j} - \mu N_{j}\right)/T\right]}{Z_{GCE}}$$

$$Z_{CGE}\left(T, V, \mu\right) = \sum_{j} \exp\left[-\frac{E_{j} - \mu N_{j}}{T}\right] \text{ partition function}$$

$$\left\langle N \right\rangle = \sum_{j} N_{j} p_{j} = T \frac{\partial \ln Z_{CGE}}{\partial \mu}\Big|_{V}$$

$$k_{2}\left\langle N \right\rangle = \left\langle N^{2} \right\rangle - \left\langle N \right\rangle^{2} = \sum_{j} N_{j}^{2} p_{j} = T^{2} \frac{\partial^{2} \ln Z_{CGE}}{\partial \mu^{2}}\Big|_{V}$$

Phase boundaries from first moments



works in the energy range spanning by 3 orders of magnitude! y axis: 9 orders of magnitude!

Dynamics of phase transitions



A. Bazavov et al., Phys.Rev. D85 (2012) 054503

freeze-out at the phase boundary!

 $T_{c}^{lattice} = 154 \pm 9 \, MeV, \quad T_{fo}^{ALICE} = 156 \pm 3 MeV$

- E-by-E fluctuations:
 - To study dynamics of the phase transitions
 - To locate phase boundaries

Bridge from experiment to theory

for a thermal system in a fixed volume V within the Grand Canonical Ensemble $\hat{\chi}_{2}^{B} = \frac{\left\langle \Delta N_{B}^{2} \right\rangle - \left\langle \Delta N_{B} \right\rangle^{2}}{VT^{3}} = \frac{\kappa_{2} \left(\Delta N_{B} \right)}{VT^{3}}$ $\hat{\chi}_{n}^{N=B,S,Q} = \frac{\partial^{n} P/T^{4}}{\partial \left(\mu_{N}/T \right)^{n}} \qquad \frac{P}{T^{4}} = \frac{1}{VT^{3}} \ln Z \left(V,T,\mu_{B,Q,S} \right)$

- In experiments
 - Volume (participants) fluctuates from E-to-E
 - Global conservation laws are important

$$\hat{\chi}_{n}^{B} \neq \frac{\kappa_{n} (\Delta N_{B})}{VT^{3}} \quad \frac{\kappa_{4} (\Delta N_{B})}{\kappa_{2} (\Delta N_{B})} \equiv \gamma_{2} \sigma^{2} \neq \frac{\hat{\chi}_{4}^{B}}{\hat{\chi}_{2}^{B}}$$

V. Skokov, B. Friman, and K. Redlich, Phys.Rev. C88 (2013) 034911

P. Braun-Munzinger, A. R., J. Stachel, arXiv:1612.00702, NPA 960 (2017) 114

At s^{1/2} > 10 GeV net-proton is a reasonable proxy for the net-baryon

M. Kitazawa, and M. Asakawa, Phys. Rev. C86 (2012) 024904

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smaller than in HRG for T > 150 MeV

F. Karsch, QM17, arXiv:1706.01620 O. Kaczmarek, QM17, arXiv:1705.10682

Net-particle cumulants, definitions

$$\kappa_{1}(X) = \langle X \rangle$$

$$\kappa_{2}(X) = \langle (X - \langle X \rangle)^{2} \rangle$$

$$\kappa_{3}(X) = \langle (X - \langle X \rangle)^{3} \rangle$$

$$\kappa_{4}(X) = \langle (X - \langle X \rangle)^{4} \rangle - 3\kappa_{2}^{2}(X)$$

e.g., second cumulant of net-baryons

$$\kappa_{2} \left(N_{B} - N_{\overline{B}} \right) = \left\langle \left(N_{B} - N_{\overline{B}} \right)^{2} \right\rangle - \left\langle N_{B} - N_{\overline{B}} \right\rangle^{2}$$
$$\kappa_{2} \left(N_{B} - N_{\overline{B}} \right) = \kappa_{2} \left(N_{B} \right) + \kappa_{2} \left(N_{\overline{B}} \right) - 2 \left(\left\langle N_{B} N_{\overline{B}} \right\rangle - \left\langle N_{B} \right\rangle \left\langle N_{\overline{B}} \right\rangle \right)$$



Correlation term may arise from:

- 1. Resonance contributions
- 2. Global conservation laws

Poisson limit:

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Experimental trick: cuts on y and/or p_t





Large
$$\frac{\Delta y_{accept}}{\Delta y_{total}}$$
 : conservations dominate

Small $\frac{\Delta y_{accept}}{\Delta y_{total}}$: dynamical fluctuations may disappear

- Our approach:
 - Estimation of non-dynamical fluctuations
 - Selection of optimum acceptance
 - Correction for conservation lows

P. Braun-Munzinger, A. R., J. Stachel, in preparation A. R. SQM 2017

Particle Identification, ALICE example





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Centrality determination





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Non-dynamical fluctuations



- \odot N_w fluctuates with MC Glauber initial conditions
- ⊙ Particles are produced from each source
- ⊙ Inputs:
 - Mean proton multiplicities $\langle p \rangle$, $\langle \overline{p} \rangle$
 - Centrality selection like in experimental data









Results from ALICE





A. R., QM2017, arXiv:1704.05329

Results from ALICE

Contribution from global baryon number conservation



The deviation from Skellam is due to the global baryon number conservation.

Analysis of higher cumulants is ongoing!

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Results from STAR



Colliding Energy $\sqrt{s_{NN}}$ (GeV)

- Close to unity for peripheral collisions
- Below 39 GeV hints for a non-monotonic behavior
- More statistics and precise control of systematics are needed to explore this region

Drop at 7.7 GeV for central events

X. Luo, PoS CPOD2014, 019 (2015) STAR: PRL 112, 032302 (2014)

NOTE: Only statistical uncertainties are presented!

Results from NA61/SHINE/NA49







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Near Future Experiments





V. Kekelidze, QM2017 P. Senger, QM2017

Summary

- The measured second cumulants of net-protons at ALICE are, after accounting for baryon number conservation, in agreement with the corresponding second cumulants of the Skellam distribution.
 - LQCD predicts a Skellam behavior for κ_2 of net-baryons at 150 MeV.
- Net-proton measurements from STAR hints for a non-monotonic behavior for energies below 39 GeV. More statistics and control of systematics are needed.
- ◎ NA61 data shows violation of the WNM model for Ar+Sc data
- The analysis of higher cumulants are ongoing in ALICE, which is extremely important for understanding the nature of transition at vanishing μ_B

Outlook

- No clear signals for critical point
- No direct evidence for chiral symmetry restoration
- Missing hadron yields and spectra in the NICA energy range
- Additional phases at lower baryon chemical potential?

All these and other unresolved issues can and should be explored at the upcoming MPD@NICA







Baryon Chemical Potential $\mu_{\rm B}$

Probing the equation of state

directed spherical (radial) elliptic icture @ UrQMD XZ - the reaction plane probes EoS Spectators deflected from Asymmetry out vs. in-plane dense reaction zone sensitive to EoS $\frac{1}{m_r}\frac{d^2n}{dm_rdy} = \alpha e^{-\frac{m_r}{T}}$ probes EoS measure of perfect fluid sensitive to pressure $T = T_{_{F}} + m \left\langle \beta_{_{T}} \right\rangle^2$, $p_{_{T}} < 2 GeV$ $E\frac{d^{3}N}{d^{3}\vec{n}} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{d^{2}N}{n \, dn \, dv} \Big[1 + 2v_{1}\cos(\phi - \psi_{RP}) + 2v_{2}\cos(2(\phi - \psi_{RP})) + \dots \Big]$ $v_n = \langle \cos(n(\phi - \psi_{RP})) \rangle$

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Fluctuations in the Early Universe



. . .

Age of the Universe: 13.77 billion years The Universe if flat within 0.4 % Ordinary matter ~ 4.6 % Dark matter ~ 24% Dark energy ~ 71.4 %

Non-dynamical contributions





- Each approach gives:
 - Similar $\langle N_w \rangle$
 - Very different $\langle N_W^n \rangle$

For higher moments centrality selection is crucial!



- Model assumption: full correlation in 4 pi (baryon number conservation)
- Approach to independent Poisson (Skellam) for a small acceptance
- ⊙ Approach to zero for full acceptance
- \odot Acceptance is more crucial for the 4 $^{\rm th}$ cumulant
- κ2/Skellam -> 1-acceptance

$$\kappa_{2}(n_{B}-n_{\overline{B}}) = \kappa_{2}(n_{B}) + \kappa_{2}(n_{\overline{B}}) - 2\left(\left\langle n_{B}n_{\overline{B}} \right\rangle - \left\langle n_{B} \right\rangle \left\langle n_{\overline{B}} \right\rangle\right)$$

P. Braun-Munzinger, A. R., J. Stachel, in preparation

Baryon number conservation





A. R. talk at CPOD 2016

Proposed comparison procedure:

- Eliminate volume dependence
- Perform analysis for $\Delta \eta > \Delta \eta_{th}$
- Calculate acceptance factors based on experimental data $\alpha(\Delta \eta) = \frac{p^{\alpha \alpha}}{p^{4\pi}}$
- Correct the experimental data
- Compare to LQCD

Centrality determination





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Einstein, 1910

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