# Critical Points in Strongly-Interacting Media

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### **Critical Points**



### Ising Model



These CPs belong to the same universality class ( $Z_2$ ).

Common critical exponents. ex.  $C \sim (T - T_c)^{-\alpha}$ 

### Quantum ChromoDynamics

Building blocks of matter





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# Quantum chromodynamics (QCD) =Fundamental theory of strong interaction

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{\bar{\psi}(i\not{D} - m)\psi}{\uparrow} - \frac{1}{4} \frac{F_{\mu\nu,a}F_a^{\mu\nu}}{\uparrow}$$
quarks  $\stackrel{\uparrow}{\longrightarrow}$ gluons



### Quark-Gluon Plasma (QGP)

#### vacuum



# Quark-Gluon Plasma (QGP)



# Quark-Gluon Plasma (QGP)



quark-gluon plasma

### Early Universe

### **QCD** Phase Diagram



### **QCD** Phase Diagram



## OCD Phase Diagram



### Varying Quark Masses



Various orders of phase transition with variation of  $m_q$ .

### Two Experimental Tools





### Relativistic Heavy-Ion Collisions

Colliding two heavy nuclei in accelerators RHIC (USA), LHC (EU), etc.

### Lattice QCD Numerical Simulations

First-principle simulations on supercomputers

# Lattice QCD Numerical Simulations



Unique tool to perform quantitative analyses of non-perturbative QCD aspects

### Hadron Spectroscopy



### Thermodynamics



# **Relativistic Heavy-Ion Collisions**





**Elementary processes** new particle search properties of particles Thermal Medium hot & dense medium phase transitions

LHC-Large Hadron Collider







### Two Experimental Tools



Real experimentsVirtual, but unphysical paramsVarious densitySmall baryon density onlyDynamical evolutionIdeal thermal systemFinal-state observables onlyLimited observables

Complementary use of both exps. is important!

### Fluctuations

### Observables in equilibrium are fluctuating!





# Cumulants

### Cumulants

 $\begin{cases} \langle N \rangle_c = \langle N \rangle & \text{average} \\ \langle N^2 \rangle_c = \langle \delta N^2 \rangle & \text{variance} \\ \langle N^3 \rangle_c = \langle \delta N^3 \rangle \\ \langle N^4 \rangle_c = \langle \delta N^4 \rangle - 3 \langle \delta N^2 \rangle^2 \end{cases}$ 



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- Gauss distribution:  $\langle N^3 \rangle_c = \langle N^4 \rangle_c = \cdots = 0$
- Poisson distribution:  $\langle N^2 \rangle_c = \langle N^3 \rangle_c = \langle N^4 \rangle_c = \cdots = \langle N \rangle_c$

Review: Asakawa, MK, PPNP 90 (2016)



 $P(M) \sim e^{-V(M)}$ 

- P(M) : probability distr.
- V(M) : effective potential
- *M* : order parameter

• Sign of  $\langle N^3 \rangle_c$  is flipped at the CP.



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•  $\langle N^4 \rangle_c$  changes discontinuously at the CP.

# **Experimental Search** for QCD Critical Point

#### **Reviews**: Asakawa, MK, PPNP ('16) Bluhm, MK+, NPA 1003 ('20) MK, Esumi, Nonaka, JPS journal, 2021/8









現在、およそ10<sup>15</sup> g/cm<sup>3</sup>という超高密度 で実現するとされる相転移の実験的探索が 世界各地の実験施設で行われているのをご 存じだろうか、この相転移とは、強い相互 作用の基礎理論である量子色力学 (OCD) が低温かつ超高密度の物質中で引き起こす 一次相転移と、その一次相転移線の端点で ある OCD 臨界点のことである。10<sup>15</sup> g/cm<sup>3</sup> という密度は、原子核の飽和密度∞~ 2.5×10<sup>14</sup> g/cm<sup>3</sup>を大きく上回り、現在の宇 宙における最高密度状態の中性子星中心部 に匹敵する、この相転移を、加速した重い 原子核を衝突させる実験である高エネル ギー重イオン衝突によって地上で実現し、 その性質を調べるための実験が進められて

これら一連の実験が目指す最重要課題が ビームエネルギー走査による高密度領域の 相構造探索である。

これら一連の研究の中でも近年特に精力 的に調べられてきたのが、非ガウスゆらぎ を使った OCD 臨界点の実験的探索である。 ゆらぎはキュムラントとよばれる量で特徴 づけられるが、OCD臨界点でゆらぎが発 散するのに伴い、 QCD 臨界点周辺では各 次数のキュムラントに特徴的な発散や符号 変化などの異常が現れることが理論的に指 摘されている、一方、重イオン衝突実験で は、衝突事象毎解析とよばれる手法で保存 電荷数などの観測量のゆらぎが測定でき、 10°をも凌ぐ膨大な衝突事象の解析によっ

♦♦♦ 解説 ♦♦♦♦

QCD真空にクォーク数密度 を印加していくと、10<sup>15</sup>g/cm<sup>3</sup> 付近で真空構造の変質に伴う - 次相転移が記きる可能性力 指摘されている この一次相 転移が存在する場合 相転移 線は有限温度で端点、すなれ 5臨界点をもつ、この点を QCD臨界点とよび、現在ビー エネルギー走査によるその 実験的探索が注目されている



田語解説

**OCD**聽界点



# **Event-by-event Fluctuations**



Review: Asakawa, MK, PPNP 90 (2016)

STAR, PRL105 (2010)



Cumulants  $\langle \delta N_p^2 \rangle, \langle \delta N_p^3 \rangle, \langle \delta N_p^4 \rangle_c$ 



• Sign of  $\langle N^3 \rangle_c$  is flipped at the CP.

# Sign Change of Cumulant

Asakawa, Ejiri, MK, PRL '09

### Geometric interpretation on the signs

Fluctuations  $\langle N_B^2 \rangle_c$ diverge at the QCD-CP.

Themodynamic Relation

$$\langle N_{\rm B}^{m+1} \rangle_c = T \frac{\partial \langle N_{\rm B}^m \rangle_c}{\partial \mu_{\rm B}}$$

Sign of  $\langle N_B^3 \rangle_c$  can distinguish near and away sides!



 $\langle \delta N^3$ 

### Impact of Negative Cumulants

Asakawa, Ejiri, MK, PRL '09

Once negative  $\langle N_B^3 \rangle_c$  is established, it is evidences that  $\begin{cases} (1) \ \chi_B \text{ has a peak structure in the QCD phase diagram.} \\ (2) \text{ Hot matter beyond the peak is created in the collisions.} \end{cases}$ 

•No dependence on any specific models.
•Just the sign! No normalization (such as by N<sub>ch</sub>).

# Proton Number Cumulants

 $\langle N_p^3 \rangle_c / \langle N_p^2 \rangle_c$ 





#### STAR, 2001.06419

Nonzero and non-Poissonian cumulants are experimentally established.

# Time Evolution of Cumulants



Proper understanding of the time evolution of fluctuations is indispensable.

### Rapidity Window Dependence in Diffusion Models

Higher order cumulants

**D** 2<sup>nd</sup> order cumulant near CP

in diffusion master equation MK+ (2014); MK (2015)

in stochastic diffusion equation sakaida, Asakawa, Fujii, MK, 2018



□ Non-monotonic  $\Delta y$  dependence can emerge reflecting the dynamical evolution.

## Issues with Experimental Analysis

### Detector-response correction

MK, Asakawa, 2012 MK, 2016 MK, Luo, 2017 Nonaka, MK, Esumi, 2017 Nonaka, MK, Esumi, 2018

Pileup correction
 Nonaka, MK, Esumi, 2020

 Closer look at Exp. data
 Nonaka, MK, Esumi, in prep.



# Lattice Simulation of CP in Heavy-Quark Region

Kiyohara, MK, Ejiri, Kanaya, arXiv:2108.00118

See also WHOT-QCD Collab. PTEP 2021 (2021) 013B08; Phys.Rev.D 101 (2020) 05450

### Varying Quark Masses

#### Columbia plot Example = order of phase tr. at $\mu = 0$ Phase diagram in $\overline{m_q} = \infty$ heavy-quark region PURE N<sub>f</sub>=2 00 ms GAUGE 2<sup>nd</sup> order 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> order Z(2) order **O(4)** T1<sup>st</sup>tr. physical point Critical N<sub>f</sub>=1 Point = ==> order orde $1/m_a$ m<sub>u.d</sub> $m_q = 0$

Various orders of phase transition with variation of  $m_q$ .



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•  $\langle N^4 \rangle_c$  changes discontinuously at the CP.

### Finite-Volume Effects



Sudden change of B<sub>4</sub> at the CP is smeared by finite V effect.
B<sub>4</sub> obtained for various V has crossing at t = 0.
At the crossing point, B<sub>4</sub> = 1.604 in Z<sub>2</sub> universality class.

### Finite-Volume Effects



□ Sudden change of  $B_4$  at the CP is smeared by finite V effect. □  $B_4$  obtained for various V has crossing at t = 0. □ At the crossing point,  $B_4 = 1.604$  in  $Z_2$  universality class.

# Binder-Cumulant Analysis

### Light-quark region

Kuramashi, Nakamura, Ohno, Takeda, '20





Statistically-significant deviation of the crossing point from the 3d-Ising value.
 Too large finite-V effects?



### Heavy-quark region

Cuteri, Philipsen, Schön, Sciarra, '21

## Numerical Simulation

□ Coarse lattice:  $N_t = 4$ □ But large spatial volume:  $LT = N_s / N_t \le 12$ 

Hopping-param. (~1/m<sub>q</sub>) expansion
 Monte-Calro with LO action
 High statistical analysis



#### Simulation params.

| lattice size                    | $\beta^*$ | $\lambda$ | $\kappa^{N_{\mathrm{f}}=2}$ |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| $48^3 \times 4$                 | 5.6869    | 0.004     | 0.0568                      |
|                                 | 5.6861    | 0.005     | 0.0601                      |
|                                 | 5.6849    | 0.006     | 0.0629                      |
| $40^3 \times 4,  36^3 \times 4$ | 5.6885    | 0.003     | 0.0529                      |
|                                 | 5.6869    | 0.004     | 0.0568                      |
|                                 | 5.6861    | 0.005     | 0.0601                      |
|                                 | 5.6849    | 0.006     | 0.0629                      |
|                                 | 5.6837    | 0.007     | 0.0653                      |
| $32^3 \times 4$                 | 5.6885    | 0.003     | 0.0529                      |
|                                 | 5.6865    | 0.004     | 0.0568                      |
|                                 | 5.6861    | 0.005     | 0.0601                      |
|                                 | 5.6845    | 0.006     | 0.0629                      |
|                                 | 5.6837    | 0.007     | 0.0653                      |
| $24^3 \times 4$                 | 5.6870    | 0.0038    | 0.0561                      |
|                                 | 5.6820    | 0.0077    | 0.0669                      |
|                                 | 5.6780    | 0.0115    | 0.0740                      |

### **Binder-Cumulant Analysis**



Z2 $B_4 = 1.604$  $\nu = 0.630$  $LT \ge 9$  $B_4 = 1.630(24)(2), \nu = 0.614(48)(3)$  $LT \ge 8$  $B_4 = 1.643(15)(2), \nu = 0.614(29)(3)$ 

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■  $B_4$  and  $\nu$  are consistent with Z<sub>2</sub> universality class only when  $LT \ge 9$  data are used for the analysis.

# Further Check of Finite-V Scaling

### Effective potential at the CP



### **Given Scaling of order parameter**



### Z2 scaling is well established

### Summary

- Critical points appear many places in QCD at nonzero temperature.
- Two experimental tools for the search for the CPs:
   Relativistic heavy-ion collisions
   Lattice QCD numerical simulations
- Various studies are ongoing using both real and virtual experiments.



