On the interplay of Lattice QCD Calculations and Heavy Ion Experiments





USQCD Collaboration Meeting, April 16th, 2010



We Get a Gas of Particles

But, the number of hadronic states grows exponentially. This implies a maximum temperature for a hadron gas [Hagedorn] T_н=170 MeV



and if we stubbornly continue to heat the gas...

Deconfinement to the rescue! quarks become free A Quark-Gluon Plasma is formed



Intersection of Lattice and Experiment

Quarkonium as a QGP Thermometer

QCD Phase Diagram

- The Phase Boundaries
- The Critical Point Search
- Hadronic Fluctuations

Equation of State and Expansion Dynamics





Critical Point and Onset of Deconfinement 5th International Workshop • June 8-12, 2009 Brookhaven National Laboratory, Long Island, New York, USA

PHASE DIAGRAM OF QCD DECONFINEMENT AND CHIRAL SYMMETRY RESTORATION EQUATION OF STATE AND TRANSPORT PROPERTIES CORRELATIONS AND FLUCTUATIONS EQUILIBRATION AND HADRONIZATION EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS FROM RHIC AND SPS FUTURE EXPERIMENTS

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QGP Thermometer







Lattice and Quarkonium



Lattice calculations for the QQbar free energy clearly show screening

But lattice correlators show little modification

Lattice U and F used to constrain the potential in a potential model



A threshold enhancement can explain the screening and the correlators



Phase Transitions



Do the Little Bangs Boil?

Is there a 1st or 2nd order phase transition at zero μ_B ?

 $N_{*} = 4$ $N_{*} = 6$ 200 100 4×12^{3} ⁴ 6×18³ □ 4×16³ 6×24³ 80 04×24³ • 6×32³ 150 χ/T2 60 100 50 20 3.23.3 3.43.53.73.43.53.6 $6/q^{2}$ $6/q^{2}$

Figure 1 | Susceptibilities for the light quarks for $N_t = 4$ and for $N_t = 6$ as a function of $6/g^2$, where g is the gauge coupling. (T grows with $6/g^2$.) The largest volume is eight times bigger than the smallest one, so a first-order phase transition would predict a susceptibility peak that is eight times higher

Aoki, Y., Endrodi, G., Fodor, Z., Katz, S. D. & Szabó, K. K. *Nature* **443**, **675–678**



Lattice QCD and Data

No!

No evidence for the growth of fluctuations with system-size that one expects for a 1st or 2nd order phase transition:



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Search for a critical point at RHIC



In 1911, Rutherford discovered the nucleus, making him the first nuclear physicist

100 years later, RHIC will scan for new landmarks on the nuclear matter phase diagram



The experimental search is underway as we speak

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Fluctuation of Conserved Charges and the Critical Point Search



$$\kappa \sigma^2 = \frac{\chi_{\rm B}^{(4)}}{\chi_{\rm B}^{(2)}/T^2}$$

Data follow a linear superposition model for all system sizes with kurtosis time variance equal unity

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Lattice results at finite μ_B are of obvious importance to the critical point search:

both for where to look and what to look for

Lattice QCD and Expansion Dynamics





Are particles emitted at random angles? No. They remember the initial geometry!



Effect of Lattice EOS on Observables



Interplay of Lattice & Heavy Ion Collisions

We think finite temperature lattice results are important for basically all aspects of heavy-ion phenomenology

I say "think" because experimentalists need to demonstrate that our collisions create a locally equilibrated medium where thermodynamic variables can be defined

The more the models are constrained with lattice data, the easier that will be