Inhomogeneous chiral symmetry breaking phases



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QCD phase diagram





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- ► frequent assumption: \(\bar{q}q\), \(\langle qq\) constant in space





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- This talk:

inhomogeneous χ SB in the NJL model

Model



► NJL model:

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}(i\partial\!\!\!/ - m)\psi + G_{\mathcal{S}}\left((\bar{\psi}\psi)^2 + (\bar{\psi}i\gamma_5\vec{\tau}\psi)^2\right)$$

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► bosonize: $\sigma(x) = \bar{\psi}(x)\psi(x), \quad \vec{\pi}(x) = \bar{\psi}(x)i\gamma_5\vec{\tau}\psi(x)$

$$\Rightarrow \quad \mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi} \left(i \partial \!\!\!/ - m + 2G_S(\sigma + i \gamma_5 \vec{\tau} \cdot \vec{\pi}) \right) \psi - G_S \left(\sigma^2 + \vec{\pi}^2 \right)$$

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mean-field approximation:

$$\sigma(\mathbf{x}) \rightarrow \langle \sigma(\mathbf{x}) \rangle \equiv S(\vec{\mathbf{x}}), \quad \pi_{a}(\mathbf{x}) \rightarrow \langle \pi_{a}(\mathbf{x}) \rangle \equiv P(\vec{\mathbf{x}}) \, \delta_{a3}$$

- $S(\vec{x})$, $P(\vec{x})$ time independent classical fields
- retain space dependence !



- ► mean-field Lagrangian: $\mathcal{L}_{MF} = \bar{\psi}(x)S^{-1}(x)\psi(x) G_S\left(S^2(\vec{x}) + P^2(\vec{x})\right)$
 - inverse dressed propagator:

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- thermodynamic potential:

$$\Omega_{MF}(T,\mu;S,P) = -\frac{T}{V}\operatorname{Tr}\ln\left(\frac{1}{T}(i\partial_0 - \mathcal{H}_{MF} + \mu)\right) + \frac{G_S}{V}\int\limits_V d^3x \left(S^2(\vec{x}) + P^2(\vec{x})\right)$$



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$$= -\frac{1}{V}\sum_{\lambda} \left[\frac{E_{\lambda} - \mu}{2} + T\ln\left(1 + e^{\frac{E_{\lambda} - \mu}{T}}\right)\right] + \frac{1}{V}\int_V d^3x \frac{|M(\vec{x}) - m|^2}{4G_s}$$

- mass function: $M(\vec{x}) = m 2G_S(S(\vec{x}) + iP(\vec{x}))$
- $E_{\lambda} = E_{\lambda}[M(\vec{x})] = \text{eigenvalues of } \mathcal{H}_{MF}$



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 - ► calculate eigenvalue spectrum of \mathcal{H}_{MF} for given mass function $M(\vec{x})$
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 - remaining task:

minimize w.r.t. 2 parameters ($m \neq 0$: 3 parameters) much easier!

Phase diagram (chiral limit)

[D. Nickel, PRD (2009)]





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Phase diagram (chiral limit)

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- 1st-order line completely covered by the inhomogeneous phase!
- all phase boundaries 2nd order
- critical point coincides with Lifshitz point



$$\blacktriangleright M(z) = \sqrt{\nu}\Delta \operatorname{sn}(\Delta z|\nu) \rightarrow \begin{cases} \Delta \tanh(\Delta z) & \text{for } \nu \to 1 \\ \sqrt{\nu}\Delta \sin(\Delta z) & \text{for } \nu \to 0 \end{cases}$$





April 4, 2012 | Michael Buballa | 7































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Including vector interactions

[S. Carignano, D. Nickel, M.B., PRD (2010)]





additional interaction term:

$$\mathcal{L}_V = -G_V (\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu\psi)^2$$

homogeneous phases: strong G_V-dependence of the critical point

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- **•** inhomogeneous regime: stretched in μ direction, Lifshitz point at constant *T* April 4, 2012 | Michael Buballa | 8

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- signature of the critical point: divergent susceptibilities
- e.g., quark number susceptibility:

$$\chi_{nn} = -\frac{\partial^2 \Omega}{\partial \mu^2} = \frac{\partial n}{\partial \mu}$$

homogeneous phases only:



[K. Fukushima, PRD (2008)]



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- expectations:



homogeneous phases only:



[K. Fukushima, PRD (2008)]

• $\frac{G_V = 0}{CP}$ = Lifshitz point

 \rightarrow no qualitative change



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Including Polyakov-loop effects



- ► PNJL model: $\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}(i\not\!\!D m)\psi + G_S\left((\bar{\psi}\psi)^2 + (\bar{\psi}i\gamma_5\vec{\tau}\psi)^2\right) + U(\ell,\bar{\ell})$
- simplifying assumption:
 - $\ell,\,\bar\ell$ space-time independent, even in inhomogeneous phases



phase diagram:

Polyakov loop:

suppression of thermal effects

 \rightarrow phase diagram stretched in T direction

Two-dimensional modulations

- consider two shapes:
 - ► square lattice ("egg carton") M(x, y) = M cos(Qx) cos(Qy)

hexagonal lattice

$$M(x, y) = \frac{M}{3} \left[2\cos\left(Qx\right)\cos\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}Qy\right) + \cos\left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{3}}Qy\right) \right]$$

minimize both cases numerically w.r.t. M and Q









[S. Carignano, M.B., arXiv:1203.5343]



- amplitudes and wave numbers:
 - egg carton:



hexagon:



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free-energy gain at T = 0:



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 2d not favored over 1d in this regime

[S. Carignano, M.B., arXiv:1203.5343]



rectangular lattice:

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⇒ "egg carton" local minimum



- ► 450 MeV < µ < 900 MeV: egg carton favored
- $\mu > 900$ MeV: hexagon favored



- ► additional quark-quark interaction: $\mathcal{L}_{qq} = H(q^T C i \gamma_5 \tau_A \lambda_{A'} q)(\bar{q} i \gamma_5 \tau_A \lambda_{A'} C \bar{q}^T)$
- ► allow for homogeneous *u*-*d* pairing $(\mu_u = \mu_d)$



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[D. Nowakowski et al., MSc thesis]



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- $(\mu_u = \mu_d)$
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 - depends strongly on diquark coupling constant



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- ▶ NJL model with one- and two-dimensional modulations of $\langle \bar{q}q \rangle$:
 - 1st-order line and critical point covered by an inhomogeneous region
 - inhomogeneous phase rather stable w.r.t. vector interactions
 - number susceptibility always finite (for $G_V > 0$)
 - 1d modulations favored at "moderate" μ
 - > 2d modulations might be favored at higher μ
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- experimental signatures?
 - ▶ theory: calculate mesonic correlations (→ dilepton spectra)

Collaborators





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Stefano Carignano (TU Darmstadt)



Daniel Nowakowski (TU Darmstadt)