QCD at Finite Density

(Quark Matter)

Very Dense Matter

Consider baryon density $n_B \gg 1 \, {\rm fm}^{-3}$



quarks expected to move freely

Ground state: cold quark matter (quark fermi liquid)



only quarks with $p \sim p_F$ scatter $p_F \gg \Lambda_{QCD} \rightarrow$ coupling is weak

No chiral symmetry breaking, confinement, or dynamically generated masses

Color Superconductivity

Is the quark liquid stable?



Dominant interaction: Uses Fermi surface coherently

Attractive interaction leads to instability

 $\langle qq \rangle$ condensate, superfluidity/superconductivity, gap in fermion spectrum, transport without dissipation

QCD: gluon exchange attractive in $\bar{3}$ channel

 $3 \times 3 = 6_S + 3_A$ flux reduced \Rightarrow attractive

Spin-flavor-color wave function

 $(\uparrow \downarrow - \downarrow \uparrow) \times (ud - du) \times (rb - br)$ $s = 0, I = 0, c = \overline{3}$

Order parameter

$$\Phi^a = \epsilon^{abc} \langle q^b C \gamma_5 \tau_2 q^c \rangle$$



Color symmetry broken by Higgs mechanism (Meissner effect)

 $\Phi^a \in [\overline{3}]; \Rightarrow SU(3) \to SU(2)$

5/8 gluons acquire mass via Higgs mechanism, SU(2) is confined

QQ vs $\bar{Q}Q$ Condensation

Schematic interaction: $\mathcal{L} = G(\bar{\psi}\gamma_{\mu}\lambda^{a}\psi)^{2}$

 $\mathcal{L} = G_M (\bar{\psi}\psi)^2 + \dots \qquad \mathcal{L} = G_D (\psi C\gamma_5 \tau_2 \lambda_2 \psi)(h.c.) + \dots$

QQ gap equation

$$M = m_0 + G_M \langle \bar{q}q \rangle \qquad \langle \bar{q}q \rangle = -\frac{3}{\pi^2} \int p^2 dp \, \frac{M}{E_p} (1 - n_F)$$

QQ gap equation

$$\Delta = G_D \langle qq \rangle \qquad \langle qq \rangle = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int p^2 dp \, \frac{\Delta}{[(E_p - \mu)^2 + \Delta^2]^{1/2}}$$

Condensation energy

$$E_{\bar{Q}Q} = -f_{\pi}^2 M^2$$

$$E_{QQ} = \frac{\mu^2}{2\pi^2} \Delta^2$$

 $G_M > G_D$ favors $\bar{Q}Q \qquad \mu > 0$ favors QQ

Phase Diagram: Second Revision



critical endpoint (E) persists even if $m \neq 0$

Very Large Density: Gap Equation

 $\mu \gg \Lambda_{QCD}$: perturbative forces dominate



Small angle scattering dominates \rightarrow medium effects important

$$D_E = \frac{1}{\vec{q}^2 + 2m^2} \qquad m^2 = \frac{N_f}{4\pi^2} g^2 \mu^2 \qquad \text{Debye screening}$$
$$D_M = \frac{1}{\vec{q}^2 + i\frac{\pi}{2}m^2\frac{\omega}{q}} \qquad \omega < q \qquad \text{Landau damping}$$

Consider $\omega \simeq \Delta$. Typical momenta

$$q_E \simeq g\mu \quad q_M \simeq (g^2 \mu^2 \Delta)^{1/3}$$

Superconductivity driven by magnetic forces!

Eliashberg Equation

Retardation important: Eliashberg theory

$$\Delta(p_0) = \frac{g^2}{18\pi^2} \int dq_0 \left\{ \log\left(\frac{b_M}{|p_0 - q_0|}\right) + \dots \right\} \frac{\Delta(q_0)}{\sqrt{q_0^2 + \Delta(q_0)^2}}$$

collinear log BCS log

Double logarithmic behavior

$$\Delta_0 \sim \alpha_s \Delta_0 \left[\log \left(\frac{\mu}{\Delta_0} \right) \right]^2 \quad \rightarrow \quad \Delta_0 \sim \exp \left(-\frac{c}{\sqrt{\alpha_s}} \right)$$

More careful analysis (2SC phase)

$$\Delta_0 = 512\pi^4 \mu g^{-5} \exp\left(-\frac{\pi^2 + 4}{8}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{3\pi^2}{\sqrt{2}g}\right)$$

Condensation energy

$$\epsilon \simeq 4\Delta_0^2 \left(\frac{\mu^2}{4\pi^2}\right)$$

Phase structure: gap matrix is of the form

 $(\Delta_{ij}^{ab})_{\alpha\beta}$ ij flavor, ab color, $\alpha\beta$ spin

Have to minimize $F[(\Delta_{ij}^{ab})_{\alpha\beta}]$. In most cases

 $(\Delta_{ij}^{ab})_{\alpha\beta} = (C\gamma_5)_{\alpha\beta}\Delta_{ij}^{ab}$

Beautiful Case: $N_f = 3 (m_q = 0)$

Color-Flavor Locking (CFL)

$$\langle q_i^a q_j^b \rangle = \phi \left(\delta_i^a \delta_j^b - \delta_j^a \delta_i^b \right)$$

Note that
$$\langle ud \rangle = \langle us \rangle = \langle ds \rangle$$
, $\langle rb \rangle = \langle rg \rangle = \langle bg \rangle$

Symmetry breaking pattern



Novel mechanism for chiral symmetry breaking:

 $\langle \psi_L \psi_L \rangle = -\langle \psi_R \psi_R \rangle$

Breaks chiral $SU(3)_L \times SU(3)_R$ symmetry because

$$SU(3)_L \stackrel{Lock}{\longleftrightarrow} SU(3)_C \stackrel{Lock}{\longleftrightarrow} SU(3)_R$$

Gauge invariant order parameters

 $\langle (\bar{q}q)^2 \rangle$ χSB $\langle \bar{q}q \rangle$ χSB (instantons) $\langle (uds)(uds) \rangle$ U(1)

CFL Phase: Excitations

Quark pairs are charged, but $U(1)_{EM}$ remains unbroken

 $Q^* = \alpha_{11}Q + \alpha_{12}T_3 + \alpha_{13}T_8$ CFL quark matter is a transparent insulator

Excitations classified by $SU(3)_F$ and Q^*

Continuity between quark and hadron matter?

Phase Diagram: Third Revision



Questions

Less symmetric states

 $m_s \neq 0, \ \mu_e \neq 0$

Spectrum of excitations

 $m_{\pi}, m_K, f_{\pi}, \ldots$

Transport properties

mean free path $(\nu, \gamma, ...)$ specific heat, thermal conductivity neutrino emissivity



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Coefficients determined by matching Green functions



High density effective theory

Quasi-particles (holes)

$$E_{\pm} = -\mu \pm \sqrt{\vec{p}^2 + m^2}$$
$$\simeq -\mu \pm |\vec{p}|$$



$$\psi_{v\pm} = e^{-i\mu v \cdot x} \left(\frac{1 \pm \vec{\alpha} \cdot \vec{v}}{2}\right) \psi$$





Effective lagrangian for ψ_{v+}

Effective Chiral Theory

Oscillations of the order parameter

$$X_i^a = \epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon^{abc} (\psi_L)_j^b (\psi_L)_k^c, \qquad \langle X_i^a \rangle \sim \delta_i^a$$

$$Y_i^a = \epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon^{abc} (\psi_R)_j^b (\psi_R)_k^c, \qquad \langle Y_i^a \rangle \sim \delta_i^a$$

Low energy degrees of freedom

$$V\Sigma = XY^{\dagger} = \exp\left(\frac{i\phi^a\lambda^a}{f_{\pi}}\right) \qquad \phi^a = (\pi, K, \eta, \eta')$$

e.g.
$$K^0 \sim \epsilon^{abc} \epsilon_{ade} (\bar{u}_R^b C \bar{s}_R^c) (d_L^d C u_L^e)$$

Charges under $SU(3)_L \times SU(3)_R \times U(1)_V \times U(1)_A$

$$\Sigma: (3,\overline{3})_{0,0} \qquad V: (1,1)_{0,4} \qquad M: (3,\overline{3})_{0,-2}$$

Effective theory

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{f_{\pi}^{2}}{4} \operatorname{Tr} \left(\nabla_{0} \Sigma \nabla_{0} \Sigma^{\dagger} - v^{2} \vec{\nabla} \Sigma \vec{\nabla} \Sigma^{\dagger} \right) \\ + \frac{f^{2}}{4} \left(\nabla_{0} V \nabla_{0} V^{\dagger} - v^{2} \vec{\nabla} V \vec{\nabla} V^{\dagger} \right) \\ + A \operatorname{Tr} (M \Sigma^{\dagger}) V e^{i\Theta} \leftarrow U_{A}(1) \text{ anomaly} \\ + V^{\dagger} \left(B_{1} \left[\operatorname{Tr} (M \Sigma) \right]^{2} + B_{2} \operatorname{Tr} \left[(M \Sigma)^{2} \right] \right)$$

Chiral expansion

$$\mathcal{L} \sim f_{\pi}^2 \Delta^2 \left(\frac{\vec{\partial}}{\Delta}\right)^{N_1} \left(\frac{\partial_0 + MM^{\dagger}/p_F}{\Delta}\right)^{N_2} \left(\frac{MM}{p_F^2}\right)^{N_3} (\Sigma)^{N_4} (\Sigma^{\dagger})^{N_4}$$

Note:



Matching, part I

Compute f_{π} : Gauge $SU(3)_L \times SU(3)_R$ flavor symmetry

$$\nabla_{\mu}\Sigma = \partial_{\mu}\Sigma - iW^{L}_{\mu}\Sigma + i\Sigma W^{R}_{\mu}$$

Higgs phenomenon

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{f_{\pi}^2}{4} \operatorname{Tr} \left[(W_0^L - W_0^R)^2 \right] + \dots$$
$$m_W^2 = f_{\pi}^2$$





Microscopic theory



$$f_{\pi}^2 = \frac{21 - 8\log(2)}{18} \left(\frac{\mu^2}{2\pi^2}\right)$$

Matching, part II

Compute quark mass dependence of vacuum energy

 $\Delta \mathcal{E} = -B_1 \left[\text{Tr}(M) \right]^2 - B_2 \text{Tr}(M^2) \qquad \Sigma = 1$

Microscopic theory



Find

$$B_1 = -B_2 = \frac{3\Delta^2}{4\pi^2} \qquad \left[\sim f_\pi^2 \Delta^2 \left(\frac{m^2}{p_F^2} \right) \right]$$
masses $m_{\pi\pi}^2 \sim m^2$

Meson masses $m_{GB}^2 \sim m^2$

$$m_{\pi}^2 = \frac{3\Delta^2}{4f_{\pi}^2}(m_u + m_d)m_s$$

$$m_{K^{\pm}}^2 = \frac{3\Delta^2}{4f_{\pi}^2}(m_u + m_s)m_d$$

Note: $m_{GB} < \Delta$, spectrum inverted

 $m_{GB} \sim 10 \text{ MeV}$ $m_K < m_{\pi}$

 $f_{\pi} \sim 100 \text{ MeV}$

Consider $1/p_F$ expansion

$$\mathcal{L} = \psi_L^{\dagger} \left(p_0 - \epsilon_p - \frac{MM^{\dagger}}{2p_F} \right) \psi_L + \frac{\Delta}{2} \psi_L C \psi_L + O(M^2/p_F^2)$$

 MM^{\dagger} and $M^{\dagger}M$ enter as gauge fields

$$W_L = \frac{MM^{\dagger}}{2p_F} \qquad \psi_L \to L\psi_L, \quad W_L \to LW_L L^{\dagger} + iL\partial_0 L^{\dagger}$$
$$W_R = \frac{M^{\dagger}M}{2p_F} \qquad \psi_R \to R\psi_R, \quad W_R \to RW_R R^{\dagger} + iR\partial_0 R^{\dagger}, \dots$$

Implement gauge symmetry in effective lagrangian

 $\mathcal{L} = \frac{f_{\pi}^2}{4} \operatorname{Tr} \left(\nabla_0 \Sigma \nabla_0 \Sigma^{\dagger} \right) + \dots \qquad \nabla_0 \Sigma = \partial_0 \Sigma + i W_L \Sigma - i \Sigma W_R$

Acts like an effective chemical potential $\hat{\mu} = W_L = W_R$

Matching, anomalous part

Linear term $Tr(M\Sigma)$ in vacuum energy related to instantons



Instanton size

$$\rho \sim \mu^{-1} \ll \Lambda_{QCD}^{-1}$$

Instanton contribution to vacuum energy: $\mathcal{E} = A \operatorname{Tr}(M)$

$$A = C_{N_c}^{N_f} \langle \psi \psi \rangle^2 \left(b \log \left(\frac{\mu}{\Lambda_{QCD}} \right) \right)^6 \left(\frac{\Lambda_{QCD}}{\mu} \right)^1 2 \Lambda_{QCD}^{-3} e^{i\Theta}$$

$$\langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle \sim \left(\frac{\Lambda_{QCD}}{\mu}\right)^8 \Lambda_{QCD}^{-3} \ll \Lambda^{-3}$$

Quark Mass Expansion: $(m/p_F), (m/\Delta), \ldots$?

Two parameters appear in matching procedure

$$\left(\frac{m^2}{p_F\Delta}\right), \quad \left(\frac{m^2}{p_F^2}\right) = \left(\frac{\Delta}{p_F}\right) \left(\frac{m^2}{p_F\Delta}\right)$$

BCS pairing between two species with different Fermi momenta $\delta p_f \sim \Delta \rightarrow$ unlocking transition



 \Rightarrow mass expansion breaks down if



Phase Diagram of CFL phase

$$V(\Sigma) = \frac{f_{\pi}^2}{2} \operatorname{Tr} \left(W_L \Sigma W_R \Sigma^{\dagger} \right) - A \operatorname{Tr} (M \Sigma^{\dagger}) - B_1 \left[\operatorname{Tr} (M \Sigma^{\dagger}) \right]^2 + \dots$$



T. Schäfer, P. Bedaque (2002); D. Kaplan, S. Reddy (2002)

Phase Diagram: $m_s \neq 0$



Phase structure at moderate μ (and $m_s, \mu_e \neq 0$) complicated and poorly understood.Systematic calculations

$$m_s^2 \ll \mu^2, m_s \Delta \ll \mu^2, g \ll 1$$

Sse neutron stars to rule out certain phases

What are the most useful observables?