Mini Workshop "Phase transitions in particle physics" | Galileo Galilei Institute For Theoretical Physics | Arcetri, Firenze | 28 Mar – 1 Apr 2022

# Decoding the phase structure of QCD at high $\mu_B$

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#### SEARCHING FOR LANDMARKS OF THE QCD MATTER PHASE DIAGRAM



Borsanyi et al. [Wuppertal-Budapest Collab.], JHEP 1009 (2010) 073 Isserstedt, Buballa, Fischer, Gunkel, PRD 100 (2019) 074011 Gao, Pawlowski, PLB 820 (2021) 136584 Cuteri, Philipsen, Sciarra, JHEP 11 (2021) 141

#### $\Box$ vanishing $\mu_{R}$ , high T (lattice QCD)

crossover

- $T_{pc} = 156.5 \pm 1.5$  MeV (physical quark masses)  $T_c = 132^{+3}_{-6}$  MeV (chiral limit)

 $\Box$  no critical point indicated by lattice QCD at  $\mu_B^{CEP}/T_c < 3$ 

Bazavov et al. [HotQCD], PLB 795 (2019) 15-21 Ding et al., [HotQCD], PRL 123 (2019) 6, 062002 Dini et al., Phys.Rev.D 105 (2022) 3, 034510

#### large $\mu_B$ moderate T (IQCD inspired theories)

- □ limits of hadronic existence?
- 1<sup>st</sup> order transition?
- QCD critical point?
- equation-of-state of dense matter?

high  $\mu_B$  region – large discovery potential! The CBM Physic Book Friman et al.,

Lect. Notes Phys. 814 (2011) 1

#### SEARCHING FOR LANDMARKS OF THE QCD MATTER PHASE DIAGRAM



[HADES], Nature Phys. 15 (2019) 10, 1040-1045 Andronic *et al.*, Nature 561 (2018) no.7723

#### □ experimental challenge:

- □ locate the onset of QGP
- □ detect the conjectured QCD critical point
- □ probe microscopic matter properties

#### measure with utmost precision:

- □ strangeness (chemistry)
- charm (transport properties)
- □ e-b-e correlations and fluctuations (criticality)
- □ dileptons (emissivity of matter)

# almost unexplored (not accessible) so far in the high $\mu_B$ region

#### QUEST FOR HIGHEST ENRERGYON AND SENSITIVITY FOR RARE SIGNALS

#### ~20 years progress in technology since AGS (begin of high $\mu_B$ explorations)



#### THE EXPERIMENTAL LANDSCAPE FOR ELECTROMAGNETIC PROBES



#### **EXTREME AND SHINY**



spectrometer chronometer barometer thermometer polarimeter amperemeter

electromagnetic radiation (γ, γ\*)
 reflect the whole history of a collision
 no strong final state interaction
 eave reaction volume undisturbed
 encodes information on matter properties



# DILEPTON INVARIANT MASS SPECTRA

#### characteristic features



- i. 'primodial'  $q\bar{q}$  annihilation (Drell-Yan):
  - i.  $NN \rightarrow e^+e^-X$
  - ii. short-lived states
- ii. thermal radiation from QGP and hadronic matter:  $\Box q\bar{q} \rightarrow e^+e^-, \pi^+\pi^- \rightarrow e^+e^ \Box$  short-lived states  $\Delta, N^*, ...$  $\Box$  multi-meson reactions ('4 $\pi$ '):  $\pi\rho, \pi\omega, \pi a_1, ...$

iii. decays of long-lived mesons:  $\Box \pi^0, \eta, \omega, \varphi$ , correlated  $D\overline{D}$  pairs, ...

excess yield = dilepton yield after subtraction of (measured) decay cocktail (i. and iii.)

#### ELECTROMAGNETIC PRODUCTION RATE

*em* current-current correlation function

$$\Pi_{em}^{\mu\nu}(q_0,q) = -i \int d^4x \, e^{iq \cdot x} \theta(x^0) \left\langle \left\langle [j^{\mu}(x), j^{\nu}(0)] \right\rangle \right\rangle$$

□ photons characterized by "transverse" momentun:

determines both photon and dilepton rates

$$q_0 \frac{dN_{\gamma}}{d^4 x d^3 q} = -\frac{\alpha_{em}}{\pi^2} f^B(q \cdot u; T) Im \Pi_{em}(q_0 = q; \mu_B, T)$$

□ dileptons carry extra information: invariant mass  $\rightarrow$  unique direct access to in-medium spectral function

$$\frac{dN_{ll}}{d^4xd^4q} = -\frac{\alpha_{em}^2}{\pi^3} \frac{L(M)}{M^2} f^B(q \cdot u; T) Im\Pi_{em}(M, q; \mu_B, T)$$

L.D. McLerran, T. Toimela, Phys.Rev. D31, 545 (1985) H.A. Weldon, Phys.Rev. D42, 2384-2387 (1990) C. Gale, J. Kapusta, Phys.Rev. C35, 2107 (1987) & Nucl.Phys. B357, 65-89 (1991)

# EM CORRELATOR IN THE VACUUM accurately known from $e^+e^-$ annihilation $R \propto \frac{Im \prod_{em}^{vac}}{1}$

#### low-mass regime

*em* spectral function is saturated by light vector mesons (VMD  $I^P = 1^-$  for both  $\gamma^*$  and VM,  $\rho$  playing a dominant role)



Beringer et al. (PDG), Phys. Rev. D (2012) 010001

#### intermediate-mass regime

perturbative QCD continuum (quark degrees of freedom)



Sakurai, Ann.Phys. 11 (1960)

#### **IN-MEDIUM EM SPECTRAL FUNCTIONS**

#### connection to chiral symmetry $\chi_c$

 $\Box \chi_c$  is broken spontaneously by dynamical formation of a quark condensate  $\langle \bar{q}q \rangle$ 

 $\Box$  condensates  $\langle \overline{q}q \rangle$  constrained by lattice QCD



Hohler and Rapp, Annals Phys. 368 (2016) 70-109 Holt, Hohler, Rapp, Phys.Rev. D87 (2013) 076010 S. Weinberg, Phys. Rev. Lett. 18 (1967) 507

#### QCD and chiral sum rules...

$$\int_0^\infty \frac{ds}{\pi} [\Pi_V(s) - \Pi_{AV}(s)] = m_\pi^2 f_\pi^2 = -2m_q \langle \bar{q}q \rangle$$



... remain valid in medium Kapusta and Shuryak, Phys.Rev. D49 (1994) 4694

□ restoration finite T and  $\mu_B$  manifests itself through mixing of vector and axial-vector correlators

## **IN-MEDIUM EM SPECTRAL FUNCTIONS**

#### connection to chiral symmetry $\chi_c$



# ho meson melts, $a_1$ mass decreases and degenerates with near ground-state mass

Hohler and Rapp, Phys. Lett. B 731 (2014) 103

#### **Functional Renormalization Group**

quantitative agreement of the  $\langle \bar{q}q \rangle$  with lattice QCD



Jung, Rennecke, Tripolt, v. Smekal, Wambach, PRD95 (2017) 036020 Tripolt, Jung, Tanji, v. Smekal, Wambach, NPA982 (2019) 775 Fu, Pawlowski and Rennecke, Phys. Rev. D101 (2020) no.5, 054032

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# LATTICE-QCD RESULTS FOR $N(939) - N^*(1535)$

#### parity doubling occur at high T

Euclidean correlator ratios



 $\square$   $m_N$  is found to be independent of the hadronic medium

 $\Box$  indicates  $m_{N^*}(T) \rightarrow m_N(T) \approx m_N^{vac}$ 

Aarts *et al.*, Phys. Rev. D 92 (2015) no.1, 014503 Allton *et al.*, PoS LATTICE2015 (2016) 183

# DEGREES OF FREEDOM OF THE MEDIUM

#### quark-to-hadron transition



Rapp and Wambach, Adv.Nucl.Phys. (2000) 25



Ding *et al.*, Phys.Rev.D 83 (2011) 034504 Ding *et al.*, Phys.Rev.D 94 (2016) 3, 034504

 $\rightarrow \rho$ -meson melts

 $\rightarrow$  spectral function merges into QGP description

direct evidence for transition hadrons to quarks and gluons?

# IN-MEDIUM SPECTRAL FUNCTIONS FROM HADRONIC MANY BODY THEORY $\rho$ meson in medium interacts with hadrons from heat bath



Alam *et al.*, Annals Phys.286 (2001) 159 (2001) Leupold, Metag, Mosel, Int.J.Mod.Phys. E19 (2010) 147 Rapp, Acta Phys.Polon. B42 (2011) 2823-2852



ightarrow 
ho-peak undergoes a strong broadening ightarrow baryonic effects are crucial

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# dileptons as spectrometer



#### MEASURED EXCESS DILEPTON INVARIANT-MASS SPECTRA

strongly supports melting of  $\rho$ , in particular due to baryon-induced effects



Rapp, Wambach, Eur.Phys.J. A6 (1999) 415-420 (1999) Rapp, Wambach, van Hees, Landolt-Bornstein 23 (2010) 134

#### DILEPTON MASS SPECTRA FROM SPS to RHIC to LHC ENERGIES





[PHENIX] Phys.Rev. C93 (2016) 1, 014904

[ALICE] Phys.Rev.C 99 (2019) 2, 024002





□ baryon effects important even at net-baryon density  $\rho_B = 0$ □ sensitive to  $\rho_{B_{tot}} = \rho_B + \rho_{\overline{B}}$  ( $\rho N$  and  $\rho \overline{N}$  interactions identical)

# TOWARDS FEW GeV ENERGIES

#### challenges

□ implementation of in-medium effects in microscopic transport simulations

justification of thermalization in hydrodynamical simulations

#### coarse-grained transport approach

- bulk evolution from microscopic transport
- ➡ apply equilibrium rates locally
- simulate many events
  - $\rightarrow$  ensemble average to obtain smooth space-time distributions
- average hadron distributions in suitable space-time
- $\Box$  determine for each cell the bulk properties like T,  $ho_B$ ,  $\mu_\pi$ , eta
- □ use in-medium spectral functions to compute EM emission rates

Huovinen et al., PRC 66 (2002) 014903 CG FRA Endres et al.: PRC 92 (2015) 014911 CG GSI-Texas A&M TG et al.: Eur.Phys.J. A52 (2016) no.5, 131 CG SMASH: Phys.Rev.C 98 (2018) 5, 054908 Rapp and Wambach, Adv.Nucl.Phys. (2000) 25 Jung, Rennecke, Tripolt, at al., PRD95 (2017) 036020 Sasaki, Phys.Lett. B801 (2020) 135172



= 1 fm/c

## THERMAL DILEPTONS at SIS ENRGY REGIME



thermal rates folded with coarse-grained medium evolution from transport works at low energies

□ radiation from a baryon-rich source □  $N_{\pi}/N_{part} \approx 10\%$ □  $\pi$  densities a factor ~70 lower as compared to SPS regime

RW in-medium spectral function consistently describes the low-mass dilepton excess for SIS – SPS – RHIC BES – RHIC – LHC energies

Robust understanding of emissivity of matter across QCD phase diagram



#### **MESON CLOUD**

#### exclusive analysis $\pi^- p \rightarrow e^+ e^- n$

HADES, in preparation



Ramalho, Pena, Phys. Rev. D95 (2017) 014003 Zetenyi, Nitt, Buballa, Galatyuk, Phys. Rev. C arXiv:2012.07546 Speranza *et al.*, Phys.Lett. B764 (2017) 282



- □ study the structure of the nucleon as an extended object (quark core and meson cloud)
   → excitation of a baryon can be carried by the meson cloud
- $\Box$  dominance of the  $N^*(1520)$  resonance
  - → Vector Meson Dominance (the basis of emissivity calculations for QCD matter)



#### Connection to "soft deconfinement"?

Fukushima, Kojo, Weise, PRD 102 (2020) 9, 096017

# Quantum percolation of the interaction meson clouds

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# dileptons as thermometer



# DILEPTONS AS THERMOMETER acceptance corrected $\mu^+\mu^-$ excess yield



<sup>[</sup>NA60] EPJC 61(2009) 711 [NA60] Chiral 2010, AIP Conf.Proc. 1322 (2010) Rapp and v. Hess, PLB 753 (2016) 586

- □ IMR spectrum falls exponentially
- $\Box$  in the **IMR** the dilepton rate  $\frac{dR_{ll}}{dM} \propto (MT)^{\frac{3}{2}} \exp(-\frac{M}{T})$
- independent of flow: no blue shift!

 $\langle T \rangle = 205 \pm 12 \, MeV$ 

ightarrow the only explicit temperature measurement above  $T_{pc}$  in heavy-ion collisions

# MAPPING QCD "CALORIC CURVE" (T vs $\varepsilon$ )



#### SIGNATURE FOR CHIRAL SYMMETRY RESTORATION Dey, Eletsky and Ioffe, Phys.Lett. B252 (1990)



 $\Box \pi a_1 \rightarrow \gamma^* \rightarrow l^+ l^-$  (chiral mixing) is a dominant hadronic source in IMR



Guy Chanfray, 1999 Lecture Notes

vacuum

1000.0

M (MeV)

pQCD

1500.0

T=0

1.5

s[GeV<sup>2</sup>]

T=0.14 GeV

2

 $V_1(s)$ 

2.5

3

 $\varepsilon = 1/2$ 

V-A mixing 30% more yield

2000.0

2500.0

3

2.5 2

1.5

0.5

# **EXPERIMENTAL CHALLENGE**

There is no such thing as a free lunch

#### Physics background ( $M_{\parallel} > 1 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ )





#### □ towards lower energy

- □ negligible correlated charm contribution
- □ decrease of QGP
- $\Box \mathcal{D}$ rell-Yan contribution

#### □ LHC energies

- $\Box$  large contribution from  $c\bar{c}, b\bar{b}$  and QGP
- $\Box$  negligible  $\mathcal{D}$ rell- $\mathcal{Y}$ an



# EXPERIMENTAL CHALLENGE Physics background ( $M_{\parallel} > 1 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ )

Usai [NA60+], 2020



□ towards lower energy

 $\Box \ \mathcal{D}rell-Yan \ contribution \rightarrow pp, pA \ measurements$ 





#### F. Eisenhut [ALICE], DPG 2021

#### LHC energies

- □ excellent vertex resolution  $\rightarrow$  topological separation of prompt and non-prompt source employing DCA cut
- $\Box$  choice of the  $p_{T}$  cut



# dileptons as amperemeter



# TRANSPORT PROPERTIES OF THE MEDIUM

#### **Electrical conductivity**

EM spectral function connected to electrical conductivity:

$$\sigma_{el}(T) = -e^2 \lim_{q_0 \to 0} \frac{\delta}{\delta q_0} Im \Pi_{em}(q_0, q = 0; T)$$

Transport peak in the limit of very low mass and  $p_{\rm T}$ 



Moore and Robert, arXiv:hep-ph/0607172



conductivity is reduced when thermal-pion interactions included

transport peak broadens



# EXPERIMENTAL CHALLENGE

#### Measure accurately low mass $- \log p_T$ thermal excess yiled



0.9

0.8

**p.**7

0.6

0.5 0.4

0.3

0.2

0.1

# dileptons as chronometer



### THE FIREBALL LIFETIME

Rapp, Acta Phys.Polon.B 42 (2011) 2823-2852



"explicit" measurement of interactingfireball lifetime:  $\tau_{FB} \approx (7 \pm 1) fm/c$ 



Heinz and Lee, PLB 259, 162 (1991) Barz, Friman, Knoll and Schulz, PLB 254, 315 (1991) Rapp, van Hees, PLB 753 (2016) 586

Signature for phase transition (and critical point)?
→ latent heat → longer life time → extra radiation

# DILEPTON SIGNATURE OF A 1<sup>st</sup> ORDER PHASE TRANSITION

*em* spectral function from FRG flow equations

 $\Box$  dilepton rates at CEP *T*=10 MeV,  $\mu$ =292 MeV

Tripolt, Jung, Tanji, v. Smekal, Wambach, Nucl. Phys. A982 (2019) 775 Jung, Rennecke, Tripolt, v. Smekal, Wambach, Phys. Rev. D 95 (2017) 036020



dilepton radiation in hydrodynamics

- implement "strong" 1st-order transition into CMF/PNJL model by increasing scalar quark couplings
- factor of ~2 extra radiation in case of hydro with phase transition



Seck, TG, et al., arXiv:2010.04614 [nucl-th] Li and Ko, Phys. Rev. C 95 (2017) no.5, 055203



# WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT FROM EXCESS RADIATION AT ENERGY OF few GeV?

Radiation from a source

 $\Box$  long-lived ( $\tau \approx 13 fm$ )

□ in local thermal equilibrium

 $\Box \langle T \rangle \approx$  72 MeV

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\Box \rho = 2 - 3 \rho_0
```



# THE QCD PHASE STRUCTURE AT HIGHEST $\mu_B$

Hanauske *et al.*, Particles 2 (2019) no.1 Rezzolla *et al.*, Phys. Rev. Lett. 122 (2019) no. 6, 061101



possible HIC trajectories and NS merger simulations within an effective hadronic model



- T < 70 MeV,  $\rho$  < 3 $\rho_0$  for both (note the different isospin)
- □ dileptons sensitive to dense phase
- important input to constrain the EoS of dense matter

ightarrow strong connections between the fields



self-consistent relativistic-hydrodynamic calculations employing same equation-of-state for simultaneous description of BNS merger and HIC entropy per baryon (S/A) similar  $\rightarrow$  BNS merger and HIC E<sub>lab</sub> < 1 GeV

# EFFECTIVE THEORY FOR NUCLEAR MATTER

#### **Parity-doublet model** describes nuclear liquid-gas transition together with a chiral phase transition

Tripolt, Jung, Smekal, Wambach, Phys. Rev. D 104, 054005 (2021)

#### provides a natural description for the paritydoubling structure of the low-lying baryons







If detected → strong evidence in support of the paritydoubling scenario as providing the mechanism for chiral symmetry restoration in dense nuclear matter

#### THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT



- future experiments aim at utmost precision measurements for rare probes (dileptons and photons)
- new theoretical developments are expected to provide chirally and thermodynamically consistent inmedium vector-meson spectral functions (e.g. FRG, lattice QCD)

TG, Nucl.Phys. A982 (2019), update 2021 CBM, EPJA 53 3 (2017) 60

# RÉSUMÉ AND PROSPECTS - high $\mu_B$

#### **Open questions:**

- $\Box$  Quest for deconfinement / chiral symmetry restoration conditions at high  $\mu_B$
- $\hfill\square$  Quest for the conjectured QCD critical point

#### **Challenges:**

- □ Rare and statistics "hungry" observables
- □ Many aspects nature of transitions between the various phases, relevant EoS, spectral properties of hadrons in the medium, collective and transport properties of the medium, ... await a better understanding

#### **Objectives:**

- □ Dileptons enable unique measurements
  - $\circ~$  Degrees of freedom of the medium
  - Restoration of chiral symmetry
  - Transport properties
  - Fireball lifetime, temperature, acceleration, polarization
- → Systematic energy scan with full exploration of all relevant observables offer important complementarities







Words are powerless to express my gratitude to you, to your families, to your countries for the support of Ukraine!

We will win! There will be new cities. There will be new dreams. There will be a new story. There will be, there's no doubt! And those we've lost will be remembered. And we will sing again. And we will celebrate anew!

Glory to Ukraine!