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Phase diagram at finite temperature and quark density in the strong coupling region of lattice QCD for color SU(3)

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Abstract. We study the phase diagram of quark matter at finite temperature (T) and chemical potential (μ) in the strong coupling region of lattice QCD for color SU(3). Baryon has effects to extend the hadron phase to a larger μ direction relative to T_c at low temperatures in the strong coupling limit. With the $1/g^2$ corrections, T_c is found to decrease rapidly as g decreases, and the shape of the phase diagram becomes closer to that expected in the real world.

1. Introduction

Exploring various phases of quark and nuclear matter is one of the primary goals in high-energy heavy-ion collision physics. Compared to the QCD phase transition at high T , less is known for the cold and dense matter, partly because the lattice Monte-Carlo simulations are difficult at large μ . One of the most instructive approaches to compressed baryonic matter is to consider the strong coupling limit (SCL) of lattice QCD [1, 2, 3, 4]. In fact, effective free energies at finite T and μ have been analytically derived in SCL, and it is successfully applied to nuclear many-body problems [5]. While baryon effects would be important in dense matter, they have been ignored in finite T treatments through the $1/d$ expansion (d is the spatial dimension).

In this proceedings, first we derive an expression of the effective free energy at finite T and μ including baryon effects [6]. We find the second and first order phase transition at high and low T , separated by the tricritical point (TCP) in the chiral limit. With finite quark masses, these second order phase boundary and TCP become the cross over and the critical end point, thus the obtained phase diagram seems to show essential qualitative features of that in the real world.

One of the problems in SCL is in the ratio, $R_{\mu T} = \mu_c(T=0)/T_c(\mu=0)$; this ratio would be larger than two in the real world, but it is less than one half in all of the works based on SCL. In the second part of this proceedings, we demonstrate that the ratio increases to $R_{\mu T} \sim 1.8$ at $g \sim 1$ with $1/g^2$ corrections. With finite bare quark mass and baryon effects, it may be possible to understand the shape of the actual phase diagram.

2. Effective free energy in the strong coupling limit of lattice QCD

In SCL, we ignore pure gluonic action ($\propto 1/g^2$), and we obtain the following staggered fermion effective action after integrating spatial links,

$$\mathcal{Z} = \int \mathcal{D}[\chi, \bar{\chi}, U_0] \exp \left[-S_F^{(0)} + \frac{1}{2}(M, V_M M) + (\bar{B}, V_B B) \right], \quad (1)$$

where $(A, B) = \sum_x A_x B_x$, and the mesonic and baryonic composites and their propagators are $M_x = \bar{\chi}_x^a \chi_x^a$, $B_x = \varepsilon_{abc} \chi_x^a \chi_x^b \chi_x^c / 6$, $V_M(x, y)$ and $V_B(x, y)$. We keep the timelike link and bare quark mass terms unexpanded, $S_F^{(0)} = \sum_x [\bar{\chi}_x e^\mu U_0(x) \chi_{x+\hat{0}} - \bar{\chi}_{x+\hat{0}} e^{-\mu} U_0^\dagger(x) \chi_x] / 2 + m_0(\bar{\chi}, \chi)$.

We decompose the effective action in Eq. (1), containing six fermion terms, to the bilinear form in χ in order to perform the quark integral in a finite T treatment. Decomposition has been carried out in three steps,

$$e^{(\bar{B}, V_B, B)} = \int \mathcal{D}[\bar{b}, b, \phi, \phi^\dagger] e^{-(\bar{b}, V_B^{-1} b) - \phi_a^\dagger \phi_a + \phi_a^\dagger D_a + D_a^\dagger \phi_a - \gamma^2 M^2 / 2 + M \bar{b} b / 9 \gamma^2}, \quad (2a)$$

$$e^{M \bar{b} b / 9 \gamma^2} = \int d[\omega] e^{-\omega^2 / 2 - \omega(\alpha M + \bar{b} b / 9 \alpha \gamma^2) - \alpha^2 M^2 / 2}, \quad (2b)$$

$$e^{\frac{1}{2}(M, \tilde{V}_M M)} = \int d[\sigma] e^{-(\sigma, \tilde{V}_M \sigma) / 2 - (\tilde{V}_M \sigma, M)}. \quad (2c)$$

In the first step (2a), the baryonic action is decomposed using the diquark field ϕ_a [7], whose expectation value is $\langle \phi_a \rangle = \langle D_a \rangle$, where $D_a = \gamma \varepsilon_{abc} \chi^b \chi^c / 2 + \bar{\chi}^a b / 3 \gamma$. In the second step (2b), the four fermi interaction term, $M \bar{b} b$, is decomposed utilizing the null potency, $(\bar{b} b)^2 = 0$. In the third step (2c), chiral condensate σ is introduced after including the remaining four quark interaction terms in the propagator, $\tilde{V}_M = V_M - (\alpha^2 + \gamma^2) \delta_{x,y}$. The effective action is now in a bilinear and pfaffian form of χ , and quarks are separated in each spatial point coupling to the auxiliary fields, $m_q = \tilde{V}_M \sigma + \alpha \omega$,

$$\begin{aligned} S_F = S_F^{(0)} &+ (\bar{\chi}, m_q \chi) + \frac{1}{2}(\sigma, \tilde{V}_M \sigma) + (\bar{b}, \tilde{V}_B^{-1} b) + \frac{1}{2}(\omega, \omega) \\ &+ (\phi^\dagger, \phi) + \frac{1}{3\gamma} [(\bar{\chi}^a, \phi_a^\dagger b) + (\bar{b} \phi_a, \chi^a)] + \frac{\gamma}{2} \varepsilon_{cab} [(\phi_c^\dagger, \chi^a \chi^b) + (\bar{\chi}^b \bar{\chi}^a, \phi_c)]. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

We can analytically carry out Matsubara frequency product of quarks and temporal link integral in the mean field approximation at zero diquark condensate. At equilibrium, an approximate linear relation $\omega \propto \sigma$ holds, and the effective free energy is found to be

$$\mathcal{F}_{\text{eff}}(\sigma) = \frac{1}{2} b_\sigma \sigma^2 + \mathcal{F}_{\text{eff}}^{(q)}(b_\sigma \sigma) + \Delta \mathcal{F}_{\text{eff}}^{(b)}(g_\sigma \sigma), \quad (4)$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{\text{eff}}^{(q)}(m_q) = -T \log \left[C_\sigma^3 - \frac{1}{2} C_\sigma + \frac{1}{4} \cosh \left(\frac{3\mu}{T} \right) \right], \quad (5)$$

$$\Delta \mathcal{F}_{\text{eff}}^{(b)}(m_b) \simeq -f^{(b)} \left(\frac{\pi m_b}{8} \right), \quad (6)$$

where $C_\sigma = \cosh(\text{arcsinh}(m_q)/T)$ and $f^{(b)}(x) = \log(1+x^2)/2 - [\arctan x - x + x^3/3]/x^3 - 3x^2/10$. In this effective free energy \mathcal{F}_{eff} , we have two parameters, b_σ and g_σ , which are related to the decomposition parameters, α and γ . Without baryon effects, the first two terms remain in the effective free energy (4) with a fixed coefficient $b_\sigma = d/2N_c$ [4].

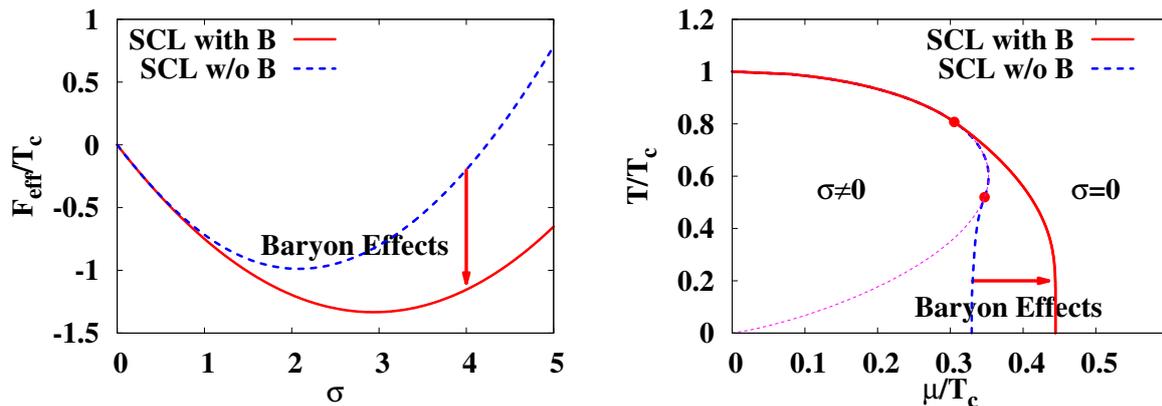


Figure 1. Effective free energy as a function of σ (left panel), and the phase diagram in the strong coupling limit (right panel).

Baryon effects appear in the modification of the coefficient b_σ and in the additional term $\Delta\mathcal{F}_{\text{eff}}^{(b)}$ coming from the auxiliary baryon determinant. When we adopt the parameter $\alpha = 0.2$ which approximately maximize the ratio $R_{\mu T} = \mu_c/T_c$, baryons are found to have effects of the effective free energy gain with respect to T_c and the extension of the hadronic phase in the larger μ direction, as shown in Fig. 1 [6].

3. Finite coupling correction

While the SCL seems to show qualitative features of the phase diagram in the real world, there are several problems, such as the parameter dependence and scale modifications [6], no stable color superconductor (CSC) phase, and too small ratio $R_{\mu T} < 0.5$. Finite coupling corrections may solve some of these problems [2, 3, 8, 9].

The $1/g^2$ correction on the effective action was derived by Faldt and Petersson [2], and we can bosonize the plaquett contributions in the mean field approximation as,

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta S_F &= \frac{1}{4N_c^2 g^2} \sum_{x,j>0} (V_x^\dagger V_{x+j} + V_x^\dagger V_{x-j}) - \frac{1}{8N_c^4 g^2} \sum_{x,k>j>0} M_x M_{x+j} M_{x+k} M_{x+k+j} \\ &\simeq N_s^3 N_\tau \left(\frac{\beta_t}{4} \varphi_t^2 + \frac{\beta_s d}{4} \varphi_s^2 \right) + \frac{\beta_t \varphi_t}{4} \sum_x (V_x - V_x^\dagger) - \beta_s \varphi_s \sum_{x,j>0} M_x M_{x+j}. \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

We have defined $V_x \equiv \bar{\chi}_x U_0(x) \chi_{x+\hat{0}}$, $\beta_s = (d-1)/8N_c^4 g^2$, and $\beta_t = d/2N_c^2 g^2$, and the auxiliary fields have expectation values of $\langle \varphi_t \rangle = \langle V^\dagger - V \rangle$ and $\langle \varphi_s \rangle = 2\langle M_x M_{x+\hat{j}} \rangle$. Here we have omitted baryon effects ($\mathcal{O}(1/d^{1/2})$) and higher order terms ($\mathcal{O}(1/d)$) in the $1/d$ expansion.

These corrections have a similar structure to the SCL effective action (1), and they lead to the modifications of the quark mass and effective chemical potential as $\tilde{m}_q = \sigma d(1 + 4N_c \beta_s \varphi_s - \beta_t \varphi_t \cosh \mu)/2N_c$ and $\tilde{\mu} = \mu - \beta_t \varphi_t \sinh \mu$. At equilibrium, we can put $\varphi_s = 2\sigma^2 + \mathcal{O}(1/g^2)$, and the effective free energy up to $\mathcal{O}(1/g^2)$ is obtained as,

$$\mathcal{F}_{\text{eff}} = \frac{d}{4N_c} \sigma^2 + 3d\beta_s \sigma^4 + \frac{\beta_t}{4} \varphi_t^2 - N_c \beta_t \varphi_t \cosh \mu + \mathcal{F}_{\text{eff}}^{(q)}(\tilde{m}_q; T, \tilde{\mu}). \quad (8)$$

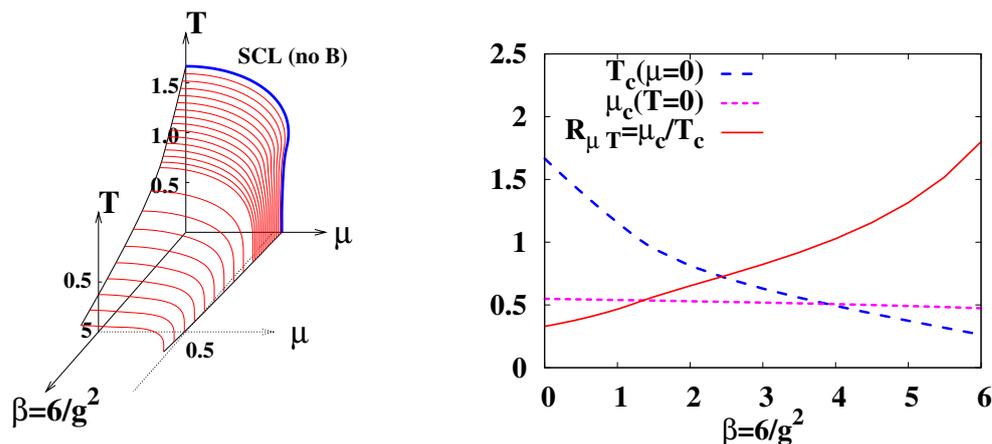


Figure 2. Evolution of the phase diagram with $\beta = 6/g^2$ (left panel), and the β dependence of T_c and μ_c (right panel).

With this effective free energy, T_c is found to decrease as g decreases, while μ_c stays almost constant. As a result, $R_{\mu T}$ grows to around 1.8 at $g \sim 1$ as shown in Fig. 2. The present results are not fully consistent with the previous findings [8]. The difference in the bosonization scheme and lattice anisotropy [3, 8] has to be investigated further.

4. Summary

In this proceedings, we have investigated the phase diagram in the strong coupling region of lattice QCD. Baryons are found to have effects of extending the hadron phase in the larger μ direction with respect to T_c up to around 30 % [6] in the strong coupling limit. With finite coupling corrections, we have found that the ratio $R_{\mu T} = \mu_c/T_c$ becomes closer to that expected in the real world. It would be interesting to evaluate both of the finite coupling correction and baryon effects simultaneously.

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