# What have we *really* learned about QGP droplets?

### 21st ZIMÁNYI SCHOOL WINTER WORKSHOP ON HEAVY ION PHYSICS

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December 09, 2021

RHIC Heavy Ion Program will be ending in the next 5 years *or so* to make way for the Electron Ion Collider...

# sPHENIX and STAR (with forward upgrades) still ahead and longer term LHC Heavy lon program into 2030s

# Good to take stock of what we have learned and what we have not learned...







#### **Physics goals of RHIC**

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•Study role of new degrees of freedom

•Produce and study quark-gluon plasma with large A at E above a few GeV/fm<sup>3</sup>

•Extract nuclear equation of state, application to astrophysics

What are the properties of matter at extremely high energy, or baryon, density? From nuclear matter scales ( $\rho_0=0.16/\text{fm}^3$ ,  $E_0=0.15\text{GeV/fm}^3$ ) to orders of magnitude beyond?

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Terra incognita

G. Baym, 1/95

### **Standard Time Evolution Model of Heavy Ion Collisions**



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### **Shear Viscosity and Strong Coupling**

Honey – viscosity decreases at higher temperatures viscosity increases with stronger coupling

#### Weak coupling ( $\sigma$ =0)







Inhibited diffusion **Small** viscosity **Perfect fluid** 

### **Quantitative Assessment of Most Perfect Fluid**



https://www.nature.com/articles/s41567-019-0611-8?proof=t

### **Quantitative Assessment of Bulk Viscosity?**



https://www.nature.com/articles/s41567-019-0611-8?proof=t

Early pre-hydrodynamic expansion is critical here

Bayesian analyses only consider free streaming case and not weak versus strong coupling case, and thus the constraint is misleading...



M. Byres, https://arxiv.org/abs/1910.12930

Nearly perfect fluid – yes!

Most perfect fluid measured to date – yes!

#### Quark-gluon plasma?



Hydrodynamic calculations typically start with T = 340 (420) MeV at RHIC (LHC), which is well above T = 155 MeV transition temperature.

Temperature alone does not tell you directly the degrees of freedom.

### Equation of State Constrained by Data



With beam energy scan data, can we constrain equation of state to see  $\mu_B$  dependence? See comment soon regarding lack of full equilibration... Slide from J.Y. Ollitrault



 $T_{eff}=222 \pm 9 \text{ MeV}$ s(T<sub>eff</sub>)/ $T_{eff}^3 = 14 \pm 3.5$ 

#### compatible with lattice.

Confirms large number of degrees of freedom, implying that color is liberated: **deconfinement observed!** 

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### What about smaller droplets?





Weller and Romatschke, https://arxiv.org/abs/1701.07145

### One, Two, Three Droplets of QGP



PHENIX, Nature Phys. 15 (2019) no.3;3214-220

### What does it all mean?

I thought hydrodynamics only applies if
(1) system is near equilibrium
(2) system has a size scale L >> mean free path

How can these be true in p+p, p+Au, d+Au, <sup>3</sup>He+Au, etc.?

Maybe they are NOT!

String Theory Dual (completely solvable at strong coupling) Systems very far from equilibrium still described by hydrodynamics as long as non-hydrodynamic modes are damped → hydrodynamic attractor.

Major re-thinking well beyond field of heavy ion physics

#### **Nuclear Theory**

### Relativistic Fluid Dynamics In and Out of Equilibrium -- Ten Years of Progress in Theory and Numerical Simulations of Nuclear Collisions

#### Paul Romatschke, Ulrike Romatschke

(Submitted on 15 Dec 2017 (v1), last revised 2 Mar 2018 (this version, v2))

Ten years ago, relativistic viscous fluid dynamics was formulated from first principles in an effective field theory framework, based entirely on the knowledge of symmetries and long-lived degrees of freedom. In the same year, numerical simulations for the matter created in relativistic heavy-ion collision experiments became first available, providing constraints on the shear viscosity in QCD. The field has come a long way since then. We present the current status of the theory of non-equilibrium fluid dynamics in 2017, including the divergence of the fluid dynamic gradient expansion, resurgence, non-equilibrium attractor solutions, the inclusion of thermal fluctuations as well as their relation to microscopic theories. Furthermore, we review the theory basis for numerical fluid dynamics simulations of relativistic nuclear collisions, and comparison of modern simulations to experimental data for nucleus-nucleus, nucleus-proton and proton-proton collisions.

Comments: 196 pages, 35 figures; uninvited review; v2: typos fixed, references added; comments, criticism, citation requests and publisher recommendations still welcome



#### https://arxiv.org/abs/1712.05815

#### Not equilibrated ...

#### What does that mean?



Not really on this QGP phase diagram

Extracted parameters like η/s and susceptibilities might not be the equilibrium values

## What else did we want to learn?

#### **QGP Properties:** What about deconfinement?



Quarkonia probe a specific length scale of the medium.

The Debye screening length is a fundamental parameter for plasmas



#### Is Upsilon suppression a definitive observation of deconfinement?



"Because the more excited states melt at lower temperatures, the sequential suppression is an excellent indicator of the temperature of the nuclear medium produced in PbPb collisions."

I am less interested in the temperature.Indirect assessment: $T > 2.5 T_c$  and thus must be QGPDirect assessment:Melting tells us something fundamental about color screening in QGP



### Scales and quasiparticles probed by jets





Jet yield suppressed at high p<sub>T</sub> (quenching) and enhanced at low p<sub>T</sub> (medium response)



Does not necessarily mean color charges are deconfined and rather the coupling strength as a function of scale sPHENIX will measure jets and heavy quark probes with precision complementing LHC measurements

Initial hard scatterings act as a microscope on the QGP with varying resolution scale



### sPHENIX being assembled



#### sPHENIX first data taking in 2023!

# What else did we want to learn?

### **Domains within Droplets**

Bjorken speculated that in the

"interiors of large fireballs produced in very high-energy pp collisions; vacuum states of the strong interactions are produced with anomalous chiral order parameters."





#### "Disoriented Chiral Condensate" Domains

### Other types of "domains"











## Color Domains - a post-modern view of CGC

Saturation physics sets a scale Q<sub>s</sub> corresponding to gluon occupation number exceeding unity.

Beautiful weak-coupled theory with phenomenology that has been used to explain *literally* everything at RHIC (read the 20+ year literature).

Now it is clear there is no evidence that saturation regime extends to physics of RHIC or LHC.

What are the EIC detector design implications?





FIG. 25: The quark saturation scale  $(Q_s^2)_q$  at b = 0 as a function of x for various nuclei . The gluon saturation scale is  $(Q_s^2)_g = \frac{N_c}{C_F} (Q_s^2)_q \approx 2.25 \ (Q_s^2)_q$ .

### IP-Glasma "color domains"



#### Apples to Apples Comparison at $\tau$ =0.000015 fm/c



None of the features tested by IP-Glasma + hydrodynamics give any evidence of saturation physics or color domains.

Only feature not seen in IP-Jazma is the lattice artifact component in the correlator.

### Other types of "domains"

Fig. 3: Extremely strong magnetic field in a heavy-ion collision.

https://www.nature.com/articles/s42254-020-00254-6



https://journals.aps.org/prc/abstract/10.1103/PhysRevC.96.024901



Simplified pictures, even as schematic, often mislead the field in its critical thinking.

Much harder to imagine observing a CME effect here.

Deep dive...

1) Is there any experimental evidence for CGC effects at RHIC (or LHC)?

2) Is there any experimental evidence for weak-coupled initial stage between strongly coupled incoming nuclei and strongly coupled QGP?

3) Is there any experimental (or theoretical) evidence for equilibration?

The answers have important implications for what we have (and also can) learn about QCD from heavy ion collisions.

# So, what have we learned?

- Nuclei are not smooth.
- Nucleon fluctuations are important.
- Sub-nucleonic geometry is important.

- Three valance quarks are the important DOF?
- Color Glass Condensate Domains are important?
- Chiral Magnetic Domains are important?







### Are we unlearning things: "hot spots"

State-of-the-Art JETSCAPE Bayesian analysis

https://journals.aps.org/prc/pdf/10.1103/PhysRevC.103.05490

#### New parameters:

w = 1.12 fm - really big proton

d<sub>min</sub> = 1.44 fm - nice and even spacing - cannot be hard core repulsion

Important progress with Bayesian analyses, but losing sight of the goals of the field.

> Treating too many parameters like nuisance parameters





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#### University of Colorado Boulder Group





University of Colorado Boulder
 College of Arts and Sciences

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Key additional contributors Professor Ron Belmont (UNCG) and Professor Sanghoon Lim (PNU), both former postdocs in Boulder

🛈 45m

#### 6:00 AM What is the QGP really?

Speaker: James Lawrence Nagle (University of Colorado Boulder)

