Combined chiral and diquark fluctuations along QCD critical line and enhanced baryon production with parity doubling

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Abstract. We argue that there should exist the large combined fluctuations of chiral and diquark condensates along the phase boundary of QCD at moderately high density and relatively low temperature. Such fluctuations might lead to anomalous production of nucleons and its parity partner, which we propose to detect at NICA.

PACS. 21.65.Qr Quark matter, 25.75.-q Relativistic heavy-ion collisions

1 Three mechanisms for the possible low-temperature critical point of QCD in the presence of color superconducting phase

Since the work by Asakawa and Yazaki [1], it is widely believed that there may exist a chiral critical point (CP) in the $T$-$\mu$ phase diagram of QCD. Such a point may be located at the relatively high temperature region, which is promising to be scanned by Heavy ion collisions. On the other hand, there is a possibility that the QCD phase diagram may have new chiral CP'(s) in the low temperature area due to the influence of other phases, especially of the color superconducting phase. In the literature, three mechanisms for realizing the low-temperature CP'(s) are known, which are all due to the interplay between the chiral and diquark condensates.

1. Vector interaction: In [2], it is found that the vector interaction can effectively enhance the competition between the chiral and diquark condensates and even lead to a low-temperature CP; the competition results in a small coexistent region (COE) with both chiral and (2CSC-)diquark condensates, and the chiral transition becomes a crossover in the low-temperature region including zero $T$.

2. Axial anomaly in the presence of the color flavor locking (CFL) phase: The possible cubic coupling between chiral and diquark condensates due to the axial anomaly may lead to a low-temperature CP for the three-flavor case, according to the idealized analysis based on a Ginzburg-Landau(G-L) action in the chiral limit[3]. It is to be noted that the color superconducting phase is necessarily the CFL in such an idealized situation, and it is totally obscure whether the new CP thus obtained is robust in the realistic situation with finite and different quark masses for three flavors. One should also note that the G-L analysis would lose its validity if a phase transition is a strong first-order one.

3. Electric chemical potential required by the charge-neutrality and $\beta$-equilibrium: It is first reported in [4] that the electric chemical potential $\mu_e$ required by the charge-neutrality can effectively strengthen the chiral-diquark interplay and gives rise to one or even two low-temperature CP'(s); see Fig[4]. In this mechanism, the $\mu_e$ plays double roles on the phase transition: First, it delays the chiral transition towards to a larger chemical potential, just like what the vector interaction does. Second, the finite $\mu_e$ implies a Fermi-surface mismatch between u and d quarks leading to an abnormal temperature dependence of the diquark condensate, which causes the multiple CP's.

Note that for the mechanisms 1 and 3, the 2CSC is the favored color superconducting phase in the COE. So it is naturally expected that the COE should be enlarged when both the vector interaction and the charge-neutrality are taken into account. This has been confirmed in [5] and even four CP's are observed in the calculation based on the NJL model.

2 The three-flavor (two-plus-one-flavor) NJL model doesn’t support the phase diagram with a low-temperature critical point induced by the Axial Anomaly

Since the G-L theory is solely based on the symmetry properties of the critical point, its analysis can be model-independent once the coefficients of the terms appearing in the action are given. However, the G-L theory itself has no ability to determine the very coefficients and hence useless for a quantitative prediction. So a natural question is that
A work toward this problem has been done by Abuki et al. based on this method could be fulfilled in reality in QCD. It was found that the low-temperature CP induced by the electric chemical potential required by charge-neutrality is really observed again in such an idealized two-flavor NJL model. The figures are taken from [4], which are obtained in a stable region is characterized by the chromomagnetic instability. The authors have investigated this problem in a two-flavor NJL model by taking into account all these ingredients [14]. Our study suggests that, besides the vector interaction interaction, and/or Charge-neutrality? into account the Axial Anomaly, Vector Interaction, and/or Charge-neutrality?

3 Does the two-plus-one-flavor NJL model support the phase diagram with a low-temperature critical point when taking into account the Axial Anomaly, Vector Interaction, and/or Charge-neutrality?

\[ \Delta_3 = 2(G_D - \frac{K'}{4}\sigma_3)s_3, \]

where \( s_3 \) stands for the u-d diquark condensate. So unlike its role in the mechanism 2, the heavy strange quark gives a positive contribution to the emergence of the low-temperature CP by enhancing the chiral-diquark interplay for u and d quarks.

Figure 2 shows the T-\( \mu \) phase diagram of a two-plus-one-flavor NJL with the charge-neutrality and \( \beta \)-equilibrium for different \( K' \) and fixed vector interaction \( G_V \). Due to the strengthened chiral-diquark competition, the low-temperature CP(’s) and crossover for the chiral transition appear in the T-\( \mu \) plane. One observes that the number of the critical points changes as 1\( \rightarrow \) 3\( \rightarrow \) 4\( \rightarrow \) 2\( \rightarrow \) 0 when \( K' \) is increased. Owing to the effect of \( G_V \) and \( \mu_c \), the low-temperature
Fig. 2. The \( T-\mu \) phase diagrams of the two-plus-one-flavor NJL model for several values of \( K'/K \) and fixed \( G_V/G_S = 0.25 \), where the charge-neutrality constraint and \( \beta \)-equilibrium condition are imposed. The meanings of the different line types are the same as those in Fig. 1. With the increase of \( K'/K \), the number of the critical points changes and the unstable region characterized by the chromomagnetic instability (bordered by the dash dotted line) tends to shrink and ultimately vanishes in the phase diagram. The figures are taken from [15].

CP(\( 's \) can be realized with a relatively small \( K' \) (Note that without the charge-neutrality constraint, we do not find the low-temperature CP in this model if only the axial anomaly and vector interaction are considered). In Fig. 3, the similar chiral CP structures appear for fixed \( K'/K = 1 \) (The Fierz transition of Kobayashi-Maskawa-'t Hooft interaction gives \( K'/K = 1 \) ) but varied \( G_V \).

**4 The suppression of Chromomagnetic Instability by Axial Anomaly and Vector Interaction**

Thus one sees that the chiral-diquark interplay in the COE region becomes complicated once the axial anomaly, the vector interaction and the charge-neutrality are all taken into account. Figures. 2 and 3 tell us that there exists a parameter region in the \( K'-G_V \) plane for the low-temperature CP(\( 's \) in the NJL model. The above parameter area seems to include the physical region since \( K' \) is expected to be suppressed near the chiral boundary while the instanton molecular liquid model predicts that \( G_V/G_S=0.25 \).

Another important role of the axial anomaly and vector interaction is that they can effectively suppress the chromomagnetic instability [16] associated to the gapless 2CSC [17]. This is shown in Fig. 4. The unstable region with the instability in the \( T-\mu \) plane shrinks with increasing \( K' \). Figure. 4 also tells us that such a suppression becomes more significant when the vector interaction is included.

The reason for the suppression of the chromomagnetic instability can be attributed to two facts. First, the u-d diquark coupling is enhanced by the s quark due to the nonzero \( K' \), which can suppress the instability [18]. Second, the effective chemical potential difference is shifted towards smaller values by \( G_V \). So the hot asymmetric homogeneous 2CSC may be free from the instability and thus could be formed at NICA densities.
and electric chemical potential, which may lead to low boundary. The interplay of chiral and diquark condensates temperature and moderate density region near the chiral boundary. Our study suggests that the mixed phase with both chiral symmetric but confined excitations are discussed in the context of quarkyonic matter in [28], that although the charge neutrality as described by the above results to heavy-ion collisions, we should note density of QCD. Before applying the baryon sector. Thus, we propose that the enhanced production of the nucleon and its parity partner \(N'(1535)\) can serve as the experimental signal of the hot (partially) chiral symmetric CSC quark matter which may be created in NICA.

Finally, a few comments are in order: 1) We have suggested that the possible realization of a (partially) chiral symmetric phase may be detected as parity doubling in the baryon sector. This is because the preformed diquarks provide the seeds of nucleons. Moreover, since the chiral symmetry is partially restored, the partial parity doubling may occur in the baryon sector. Thus, we propose that the enhanced production of the nucleon and its parity partner \(N'(1535)\) can serve as the experimental signal of the hot (partially) chiral symmetric CSC quark matter which may be created in NICA.

2) In our study, we have taken it for granted that the de-
confined phase with massive quarks seems to be supported also by the percolation analysis in \[29\], where the color superconductivity is not explicitly considered, though. 3) Recently, people are interested in the inhomogeneous chiral condensate to be realized at moderately high densities \[30\]. Certainly this is an interesting topic and may have a relevance to the phenomenology of compact stars. However, it might be unlikely that such crystal-like phases can survive, owing to the thermal fluctuations of mesonic fields \[31,32\] in the \(T-\mu\) plane shrinks and eventually vanishes. The figures are taken from \[15\].

**Acknowledgment**

Z.Z. was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No.11275069), T.K. was partially supported by a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan (No.20540265), by Yukawa International Program for Quark-Hadron Sciences, and by the Grant-in-Aid for the globl COE program “The Next Generation of Physics, Spun from Universality and Emergence” from MEXT.

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