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Locating the QCD critical point from first principles through contours of constant entropy density

We propose a new method to investigate the existence and location of the conjectured high-temperature critical point of strongly interacting matter via contours of constant entropy density. By approximating these lines as a power series in the baryon chemical potential μ_B , one can extrapolate them from first-principle results at zero net-baryon density, and use them to locate the QCD critical point, including the associated first-order and spinodal lines. As a proof of principle, we employ currently available continuum-extrapolated first-principle results from the Wuppertal–Budapest collaboration to find a critical point at a temperature and a baryon chemical potential of $T_c = 114.3 \pm 6.9$ MeV and $\mu_{B,c} = 602.1 \pm 62.1$ MeV, respectively, at expansion order $\mathcal{O}(\mu_B^2)$ [1]. We advocate for a more precise determination of the required expansion coefficients via lattice QCD simulations as a means of pinpointing the location of the critical endpoint in the phase diagram of strongly interacting matter.

[1] H. Shah et. al., arXiv:2410.16206

Category

Theory

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Primary authors: RATTI, Claudia; SHAH, Hitansh; Prof. LEITE NORONHA, Jorge Jose (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign); HIPPERT TEIXEIRA, Mauricio (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign); Dr VOVCHENKO, Volodymyr (University of Houston)

Presenter: SHAH, Hitansh

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